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TV viewers offered chocolate box choice

Rob Brown Media Editor

Everyone with a television set in Britain will be able to choose from 30 channels by early oext year - and all they will need is a box, about the size of a chocolate box, costing less than £200.

in the most dramatic development since the arrival of colour television in 1967, three rival consortia are competing to make the much-hyped digital revolution a practical reality for the three-quarters of the United Kingdom's population who have still oot entered the multi-channel era.

The buge commercial interest shown in digital terrestrial television - which emerged shortly before noon yesterday, the Independent Television Commission deadline for digital televisinn licences - is so strong that some media analysts are even starting to sound the

death knell for satellite dishes. But Ropert Murdoch is boxing clever as ever. The satellite giant BSkyB, in which he holds a 40 per cent stake, controls the set-top boxes crucial to both satellite and terrestrial digital. Yesterday it said that it is joining forces with the biggest ex-isting forces in British terrestrial television, Carlton, Granada and the BBC, to mount a joint bid for three of the six digital "multiplexes" (or group of fre-quencies) up for grabs.

This unprecedented alliance is proposing to create a giant ocw grouping called British Digital Broadcasting which would offer viewers all the existing terrestrial channels, new free channels plus the choice of 15 subscription channels. The basic subscription package would include Sky One, new Carlon films and entertainmeo channels, Granada Plus, Sports Club. Good Life and television shopping plus Public Eye. It would also offer four al-

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The Long Weekend

The digital future

Digital terrestrial television promises the multi-channel for the vast bulk of British viewers via rooftop serials. Viewers do not need a satellite dish or cable. A set-top decoder will cost up to £500 initially but competition could cut that to less than £200. Within two years TV sets will be

sold with built-in decoders Two groups of frequencies have been awarded to the BBC and a share between ITV and Channel 4, with an art house film channel. A third will be shared by Channel 5 and Weish language channel S4C with Gaelic programmes.

ready planned BBC channels, setving up repeats and new lifestyle and music program-ming plus BBC One TV, based on Radio One

Viewers not sated by the above menu can splash out more to subscribe to a further three premium channels: Sky Movies, the Movie Channel

and Sky Sports. Unveiling the £300m venture, Carltoo's chairman Michael Green enthused: "Going digi-tal is the most important de-velopment for British television since the introduction of

Mr Green forecast the end of traditional analogue television in a few years as fully integrated sets came onto the market with built-in decoders. By bringing together Britain's three most successful commercial broadcasters and the BBC, we

can play a key role in bringing about this revolution," he said.
Roy Payne of the Cable Communications Association, described BSkyB's involvement in the consortium as "interesting", commenting: "I wooder the extent to which it's an admission that there isn't a future

in direct-to-home satellites."

The other major bidder to emerge yesterday Digital Tele-vision Network is claiming to be eveo more revolutionary. Using the same basic set-top boxes which it says it will subsidise to create a low-eotry cost - DTN, part of the American-owned NTL/Cable Tel group, is propos-ing to offer British viewers not just a batch of new channels, but also a range of interactive ser-vices such as home shopping and Internet access.

Its chief executive, Jeremy Thorp, said yesterday: "We've proposed a multimedia solution tailored to the needs of the UK mass TV audience."

Mr Thorp said he had the "perfect team" to put the British population on the information superhighway. But the team does not include Lord Hollick's United News and Media or the French pay-television channel Canal Plus, which both withdrew their expected back-ing at the eleventh hour.

Steve Wagner, DTN's director of marketing and subscriber management, said: "We've always believed in digital terrestrial. We know UK consumers through Cable Tel and we know that they aren't just looking for 200 more channels. They want quality programming and in-teractive services which have

real value for them." The science and technology minister Ian Taylor said the strong commercial interest gave "the lie to all the Jeremiahs and the prophets of doom who said that DTT would be of no commercial interest and that digital would be monopolised by one company." The ITC is insisting that successful applicants must launch their new services by July oext year at the latest.

Business, page 22 Granada Group is planning to close about 100 of its 560 television rental shops. The decision is likely to lead to about 2,500



Open wide: Digital television is set to take over the market and, by early next year, Britons will be able to channel-hop between 30 stations Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

Major unveils his plans for shares for the workers

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday sought to reclaim the initiative after an uncertain start to the Tory election campaign by leaking parts of his own manifesto to encourage firms to offer free shares to their workers, and personal pensions for employees of small husmesses.

The first details of the Tory manifesto may have failed to fire voters' imagination, but John Major promised an "ambitious agenda" of "very eye-catching innovations" and a "stream of announcements". Hailing the plans as the core themes of the manifesto, he announced:

Sharematch, which involves changes io Inland Revenue shares to employees who buy Money25-30 | shares in their company;

low companies to set up per-Shopping 18-20 of employees, making it cheaper for small businesses;



to draw early on top-up pen-sions invested on top of company schemes.

Tory strategists, who claimed that their "tracking polls" were showing a narrower gap than the 25 per cent Labour lead reported yesterday, have per-suaded Mr Major to announce the details to portray a government with ideas, to overcome an impression that it has run out of steam. The Tory lead-

ership feared it missed an op-portunity to steal a march on Echoing the Tory tax attack on Labour on Monday when it announced that the Cabinet had the sharematch scheme could agreed the manifesto at Che- cost £50m and reforms to the quers without providing any details in a hurriedly arranged press conference at Conservative Central Office, Mr Major sought to repair the damage.

The Tory strategy is directed at securing the "grey" vote with more self provision through insurance schemes, even if it surrenders the youth vote.

The plans unveiled by Mr Major fall short of the "prop-erty owning democracy" hailed by Baroness Thatcher in previous elections. But he said the Halifax share conversion offer for 16 million investors was an example of the share-owning ex-pansion he was seeking. The manifesto, he promised, would be "radical in improving peo-ples lives" but it would "offer

stability to the nation". Alistair Darling, shadow and the opportunity for pension Chief Secretary to the Treasury, provision or share ownerships." immediately attacked Mr Major for announcing uncosted jor for announcing uncosted servative levelling up measure, schemes, which could lead to not a levelling down measure."

Labour, Mr Darling estimated uniform business rate for small businesses could cost between £600m and £1.5 bn.

The plan to expand personal pensions was also attacked by Harriet Harman, shadow Social Security Secretary, in the wake of allegations surrounding pension-selling after the Govern-ment's drive to encourage more to opt out of state earnings re-lated pensions in the 1980s.

The Prime Minister's first excerpts from the Tory manifesto suggest that the Government is anxious to overcome scepticism about increased wealth through ownership after the shocks to confidence caused by the collapse in house prices and the pensions debacle.

"What we're seeking to do .. is to extend pension provisioo provision or share ownerships." Mr Major said, "It is a Con-

QUICKLY

Brown firm on pay Labour signalied it would en-force helow-inflation pay awards to public-sector workers which the Cabinet is expected to agree next week. Page 6

Taxi to stardom

Augusto Macedo is set to be-come one of Portugal's biggest stars for Tuxi Lisboa. the quirky story of a man and his Oldsmobile. He died last year, aged 93.

Jails boss apologises Richard Tilt, the head of the Prison Service, apologised to the family of a prisoner chained to his bed while dying of cancer. He said compassion and humanity had taken a back seat. Five people face disciplinary charges.

Ratty rescued

The Government came to the rescue of Ratty, the misleadingly named water vole, and 32 other plants and creatures, including hlucbells and hasking sharks, which are under pressure from modern life. Page 3

Only one in a hundred can't teach

Fewer than I per cent of teachers are incompetent, less than a quarter of the figure of 15,000 originally given by Chris Wood-head, the Chief Inspector of Schools, according to figures

produced by his own office. Mr Woodhead caused a storm of protest from teachers last year when he said there were 15,000 bad teachers, about 4 per cent of the profession.

But figures sent by Mr Wood-head to Don Foster, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, suggest the number is a huge exaggeration. Under the new inspection system demanded by the Prime Minister, under which had teachers must be reported in heads, the percentage of lessons given the bottom grade was zero and the pro-

portion given the grade next to the bottom was only I per cent. As it is rare for a teacher to get the same grade for every lesson, the figure for bad teachers is clearly less than 1 per cent.

The figures will give amou-nition to Mr Woodhead's critics who say his campaign to raise standards and attack trendy teaching have undermined the profession's morale. Others will say John Major's new system has backfired, because inspectors are reluctant to give the lowest grades now that they are

The inspection results also show Mr Woodhead, whose annual report is due out next week, underestimated the number of good teachers. He put their number at only three times the figure for had ones. Although his letter gives only the proportion of good lessons, oot good teachers, the difference is clearly greater. Twelve per ceot of lessons have been

awarded the top two grades. Overall, the proportion of un-satisfactory lessons between

ary was 13 per cent, well down on the 20 per cent given in Mr

Woodhead's last annual report. The new figures grade teachers on a scale of 1 (excellent). 2 (very good), 3 (good), 4 (satislactory), 5 (less than satisfactory), 6 (poor), 7 (very poor). Under the new system, inspec-tors from Mr Woodhead's Office For Standards in Education grade teachers. For the first time they are required to report the best and the worst (grades 6 and

7) in headteachers. Mr Woodhead's letter suggest most teachers bunch together at grades 3 and 4, which account for 75 per cent of all lessons. He told Mr Foster it was not possible to give the proportion of bad and good teachers.

Mr Foster said: "Mr Woodhead has a lot of explaining to do. This seriously calls into question his statement of a year agn that there are 15,000 poor teachers. On the face of it, this is a welcome boost for the teaching profession. Giveo that it was possible to calculate the original 15,000 figure, it is important that he does the same analysis again and publishes the figures."

The reason for the discrepancy between the sets of figures is not clear. Headteachers have complained that inspectors are reluctant to jeopardise teachers' grades. Right-wingers have also complained inspectors are still

not tough enough on teachers.

An Ofsted spokeswoman said: "Mr Foster has confused lesson grades with judgements on teachers. The reduction in the number of lessons graded poor is from 2 per cent to 1 per cent. There are a number of reasons for this. We are currently analysing data concerning the number of very poor and very good teachers identified in the new reporting arrangements.

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significant shorts

Royal Academy review board to take charge

The Royal Academy's general assembly yesterday gave its full support to the establishment of a "review board" to strengthen the efficiency of the Academy's administration and finance. The new management committee, comprising RAS, trustees and senior members of staff, was recommended by the Royal Academy's secretary David Gordon and its president Sir Philip Dowson. The institution was recently rocked by revelations of debts of more than £3m and the admission that £200,000 had not been paid into the

Family in need wins case

A local authority has announced that its social services department is to "review its procedures" after dramatically settling a landmark High Court action brought against it by a "family in oeed".

The London Borough of Newham admitted in e series of court declarations that it had failed in its legal duty to assess oeeds and provide help for a deaf young "carer", Elisha Whittingham, 14, her ill single mother Angela, and 10-year-old sister, Veniece, who is severely disabled by cerebral palsy. One of the major complaints of the family, from Beckton, east Loodon, was e failure by the council to fulfil a promise to install a smitable shower. Unable to stand or sit. to fulfil a promise to install a suitable shower. Unable to stand or sit, walk or talk, the disabled daughter has to be bathed in a washing-up bowl by her sister and mother.

Lawyers acting for the family said the case, the first to be launched to test provisions of the 1995 Carers (Recognition and Services) Act, represented "a massive breakthrough".

1,200 jobs go to computer

About 1,200 administrative jobs are to be axed at the Home Office's immigratioo department - about a lifth of the workforce - and will be replaced by a computer. The new system is expected to speed up applications and help ideotify bogus asylum seekers and fake marriages. It is intended to produce savings of around 40 per cent. Unions oppose the cuts and say they have not ruled out industrial action as part of a campaign of opposition. They have advised members not to volunteer for redundancy.

Jason Ber

Man held over two murders



remanded in custody accused of the murder of one woman and the attempted murder of another. Victor Farrant, 47, of oo fixed abode, appeared before magistrates at Portsmouth after being extradited from France. He was charged with the murder in Portsmouth in February last year of Glenda Hoskins, 45, and the attempted murder of Ann Fidler in December 1995 at Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Jail for gun-maker

An engineer who made sub-machine guns in a factory hidden behind his garage was jailed yesterday. Denis Lindop, 48, was sentenced to 10 years for unlawful possession of 68 guns and ammunition, and given a concurrent eight-year term for the unauthorised manufacture of sub-machine guns. He admitted both charges. The cache was found when the Royal Ulster Constabulary searched Lindon's home at in Holywood. Co Down, in April 1995.

No action on custody death

The family of Wayne Douglas, whose death in custody sparked rioting in Brixton in 1995, reacted with disappointment yesterday as the Police Complaints Authority ruled out action against officers. citing insufficient evidence. The family said they would be seeking a judicial review to quash an inquest verdict that the 25-year-old hurglary suspect was accidentally asphydiated. Patricia Wynn Davies

Yvonne Paul

Melioda Messenger, the newly discovered model featured in tabloid newspapers this week, to whom we referred in yesterday's issue, is represented by the Yvonne Paul agency. We apologise for suggesting otherwise.

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Barbara Cartland steals George & Martha's show

lana Rigg and David Suchet's performances as the warring husband and wife, George and Martha, in Edward Albee's play, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf in London's West End, won them a

South Bank Show Award for theatre yesterday.

Receiving the award, Dame Diana voiced concern about the lack of funding for regional theatre. She recalled that she started in the regions over 30 years. ago, applying for a drama school grant from Leeds Council, where she was asked: "Do you think you're going to be able to make money from R?"

Sir Peter Hall, who presented Danne Diane's award, said the thancal state of regional theatre was the worst he had known. Actors were wording for practically nothing, he said and the seed coin that should be leeding the West End and major subsidised theatres would dry up if funding was not increased. Diana Rigg and David Suchet have both also been nominated for best actress and actor in the Olivier Awards in two weeks

Among the other arts awards presented for the first. time by the LWT show, the painter Howard Hodgkin won the visual arts category, and the tenor lan. Bostridge won the classical music section. Bernard Haitink won the opera award for his conducting of Wag-

ner's Ring. Jimmy McGovern accepted best television drama. award for Hillsborough, his controversial dramat tion of the football disaster. Presenting that award, the playwright Harold Pinter said: "I took the thought away from that programme that the victims of e disaster are inevitably blamed for it and become guilty."

In the popular music category the hot favourities,

Oasis, were beaten by Tricky. However, neither act attended the awards ceremony.

The literature award to Seamus Deane, for Reading in The Dark, was accepted by film director and

Dame Barbara Certiand, who was presenting rather than receiving an award, all but stole the show. Dressed in characteristic pink hat and trock, she praised the South Bank Show so lavishly - saying it was the one-thing that made people abroad admire England - that Mervy Bridg, his presenter, but his head in his hands in embarrassment. When he whispered to her that the award she was presenting was for the TV, comedy Father fled, she replied stemly and all fifty actions a learning and all fifty actions a learning to the Father

Throughout the ceremony, the Government faced a barrage of criticism. Theatre director Sir Peter Hall, Booker Prize-winner Salman Rushdie and Palme D'Or winning film director Mike Leigh slated 18 years of "disastrous arts policies".

- Mike Leigh said: "I hope that the new government to which we look forward will not hide behind the qua-· si support for the cinema which we have seen happening recently.".

The event, at the Savoy Hotel, was rounded off by an informal speech by Tony Bialr, who will outline the

Labour Party's arts policies in a speech at Mansion After the series of outspoken rebukes, Mr Blair said:

"I thank Salman Rushdie and others for their very discreet lobbying, but we have to get there first. David Lister

Could the truth be somewhere in Vancouver?

As FBI agent Dana Sculley in the wildly successful television serial with the paranormal twist, The X-Files, actress Gillian Anderson is used to doing the sleuthing. Recently, however, she has been the object of intense investigation herself - by newspaper reporters, most of them British.

The newshounde have been encamped for two weeks already in Vancouver, on the Canadian West Coast, where The X-Files is produced and where Ms Anderson, 28, has a home. The urgent question: who lives there with her?

It was the Sun that first broke the news that the actress was no longer enjoying marital bliss, or marital anything apparently, with her husband of three years, Clyde

The story had legs if only because the Klotz match had always seemed odd to X-philes. The pair married on impulse on a Hawaiian golf course with help from a Bhuddist priest. Not at all the kind of person favoured by the paparazzi, Mr Klotz, a film art director, was dismayingly normal and nice. The couple had a baby girl, Piper.

Then, there came more - much



Gillian Anderson: Hunted

more. Ms Anderson was alleged to have taken up with a 32-yearold Briton, Adrian Hughes. While not quite extra-terrestrial, the plot then got better still, Mr Hughes, a hit-part player in the eeries, was discovered to be facing charges involving alleged sexual assaults against three separate women. He will apparently face trial in April.

Any of the reporters worrying about tearing themselves away from the delights of Vancouver can console themselves with this: Mr Hughes' trial is only three months away. David Usborne

face leaving her badly bruised. But Mrs Best asked officers not to press charges.

A bleary-eyed George Best emerged from his home yesterday and denied reports that he had beaten his young wife, Alex, saying: "I don't hit women, only men. The 50-year-old former football superstar also denied reports that his 25-year-old wife had gone to or

Best denies

beating his wife

called police, telling journalists that someone else did". The ex-Manchester United and Northern Ireland international, wearing a full-length blue raincoat and a red paisley-patterned scarf, made his brief comments as he

valked from his home in Chelsea,

south-west London, to his office above the Phene pub in nearby Phene Street. Alex Best was said to have complained to police that her husband attacked her on Wednesday night after a drinking binge to celebrate her 25th birthdey. Best, aged 50, was reported to police yesterday for allegedly punching her in the

The alleged incident comes after Best recently juked about hitting Alex following the allegations that Glasgow Rangers' midfielder Paul Gascoigne had hit his wife Sheryi.

Wife arrested over Gucci gangland murder

Rome __ The gangland-style killing of fashion helr Maurizio Guod took a di amalia talisi yesta day when police arrested the businessman's ex-wife on suspicion of ordering his murder two years ago. Patrizia Reggiani Martinelli, 49, was arrested in an apartment in Milan. Another woman and three men

were also detained separately. The arrest was carried out on the orders of the Mi-

lanese prosecutor Carlo Nocerino, who leads the inquiry into one of Italy's most mysterious crimes. For Italians, it was yet another gripping chapter in a tong-running saga of bitter feuds and ugly power

struggles behind the family's chic image. Investigaions allege trial ducci s elegant dark-naired ex-with with whom he had an acrimonious relationship, had paid hitmen more than half a billion lire to murder him. The couple had two children and reportedly squabhled over alimony.

Gucci, 45, was shot dead in broad daylight outside his office in central Milan by a well-dressed assassin who pumped four shots into him from close range before climbing into a waiting getaway car.

The other woman arrested was Giuseppina Auriemma, 51, a "spiritual adviser".

briefing

UK arms industry captures quarter of global market

Britain's arms industry captured a quarter of the world defend market with record sales of more than £5bn in 1996, it was announced yesterday. The defence procurement minister, James Arbuthnot, described the announcement as a "remarkable achievement for British industry" boosting the country's share of the world market to an all-time record 25 per cent from 16 per cent in 1994 and 19 per ceot in 1995.

The outlook for 1997 is equally good following the successful signing of a defence pact with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

The UAE deal alone has opened the door for companies such as British Aerospace, GEC-Merconi and shipbuilder Vosper Thornycroft to potential sales of more than £2.5bo. In the longerterm Britain sees the UAE as a potential customer for the four-

Yesterday's figures were said to be good news for the 360,000 people who rely directly or indirectly on the defence industry for



ECONOMICS

How to create 1m jobs

A million new high-quality jobs could be created using only "modest" increases in taxation or borrowing, according to academic research published yesterday. Cambridge University

academic research published yesterday. Cambridge University economists found that a large proportion of cash spent by the Government no creating jobs would be paid back in entra tex receipts and lower social security bills.

The report said that a £17bn programme, for example, would lead to savings of £10bn, leaving the Treasury with a £7bn bill.

The introduction a new 60 per cent top rate of tax, biting at £40,000 would alone cover half of that net cost, by bringing in

Much of the rest could come from the release of money earned over the years from selling off council homes, said the report, poblished in the Cambridge Journal of Economics. It added that the majority of the oew jubs should be in education, housing, the health service, care in the community and the environment.

EDUCATION

Schools squeezed by special needs

A dramatic increase in the number of pupils needing special telp-at school is putting severe pressure on education budgets according to councils in London. New figures compiled by authorities in the capital reveal a 50 per cent rise over the last three years, bringing total numbers to around 25,000.

The sudden increase the councils say, has been or included partly by the introduction a year ago of a new code of practice for local education outhorities, tightening their responsibilities on identifying and providing for pupils with special needs.

Parents have also become more aware of their children's entitlements, and are more prepared to go to a tribunal if they are dissatisfied with their LEA's assessment of their child. In addition, the opening of more specialist centres means places are now being found for children who formerly would not have been catered for.

Dame Sheila Knight, education chair of the Association of London Government, which carried out the survey, said the rise in demand was costing some boroughs an extra £3m a year just to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. She called on the Government to provide more funding to save councils from cutting other

PRISONS

Released lifers commit new crimes

Nearly 20 per cent of prisoners jailed for "life" but later released on licence committed a new offence within five years, e Home Office report reveals.
In the 22 years op to 1994, 1,691 criminals were released on "life

licence" - in which the offender is automatically sent back to jail to continue his sentence if he or she breaks the law. Although reconviction rates for people on life licence are much

lower than the average for others released from custody, about 9 per cent broke the law within two years. Of those released, 66 were convicted of series offences such as murder, rape, robbery, and serious wounding. Since the introduction of Discretionary Lifer Panels in 1992. which removed the power of release from the Home Secretary and gave it to the Parole Board, the number of lifers on licence has

greatly increased. Life Licensees - Reconvictions and Recalls by the End of 1995, Home Office, Information and Publications Group, Room 1308, Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Rd, Croydon, CR9 3RR. Jason Ben

HOUSING

Scotland sees mortgage recovery:

Mortgage lending by Scotland's four clearing banks has riseo substantially, signalling a recovery in the housing market. Figures released yesterday show a £351m rise in lending by the Bank of Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank and the TSB, in the fourth quarter of 1996. During the same period in 1995 the increase was £258m.

Between them the four banks, which have more than 500,000 !; mortgage accounts, leot £16.9bn for bouse purchases over the

EMPLOYMENT

British women more likely to work

British women are more likely to have jobs than most of their European counterparts, according to new figures. Just over 52 per cent of womeo in the UK work, as opposed to nearly 60 per cent of Swedish women, and 34 per cent of Italians. Across the EU, just under half the female population has a job, while 66 per cent of men work.

Nordic countries have the highest rates of employment for

women and the smallest gaps between the sexes. Italy, Spain, Greece, Luxembourg and Ireland are at the other end of the scale. according to the Statistical Office of the European communities. British women are most likely to work after raising a family. The

peak age for them to have a joh is between 40 and 44. Women graduates are most likely to work, almost matching the male rate when they are between 25 and 29, et 85 per cent.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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Woman of 80 gets eye cells of foetus

Cells from the retina of an aborted foetus have been transplanted into an 80-year-old partially blind woman in pioneering operation by American doctors.

Surgeons placed a tiny sphere of about 250,000 foetal cells under the retina of the left eye of a patient suffering from a condition known as macular degeneration, one of the leading causes of blindness in elderly

Terry Ernest, chairman of ophthalmulogy at the University of Chicago Medical Center and one of the surgeons who op-erated on the woman, said that the retinal cells came from a foetus aborted during the second trimester, because of a threat to the mother's health. In what is, in effect, an experimental procedure, the surgeons hope that the cells will not be rejected and will regenerate in

A spokesman for the university said yesterday that the operation had been carried out last V/ednesday. "Whether it makes a difference in her eyesight we won't know for three months. The early signs that it is working will be no inflammation in the eye and signs that the cells are spreading, which

will take a couple of weeks." The patient, Pearl Van Vliet, a volunteer worker at the hospital, was unable to read or recognise faces from a distance. Previous transplants of foetal retinal cells in four people with a rare inherited eye disorder gle source.

have produced "somewhat improved sight", according to surgeons at the University of Rochester in New York, However, such transplants have

failed in four other people.
In Sweden in 1994, the only other place where this procedure has been tested for macular degeneration, no improvement was reported.

About 15 million people globally suffer from the disorder, and a dramatic rise in cases is expected as the population ages. It involves progressive failure of the central part of the retina - the macular - which distinguishes fine detail. If the disease is caught early, it is possible to prevent further damage with laser treatment, but in the majority of cases it is untreatable. It rarely leads to total blindness as the victim retains peripheral vision.

British scientists expressed some surprise yesterday that the foetal cell transplant had taken place in the United States. where abortion remains a hotly dehated political and moral issue. Some fundamental Christians in the US have resorted to violence at clinics where terminations are carried

Opponents also vehemently object to transplants using cells from aborted foctoses, claiming that successful transplants will encourage further abortions for the purpose of harvesting foetal tissue. However, scientists are now able to grow large quantities of healthy foctal tissue in the laboratory from a sin-



Numbers game: Faith Freestone, who is researching the psychology, sociology end folklore of bingo, at the Majestic Bingo Hall in Worcester Photograph: Steve Hill Newsteam

Bingo! The academic whose number is up

Lucy Ward

Education Correspondent

Have you ever wondered why 66 is "clickety-click' or 11 is "legs"? There will soon be a scholarly answer from the newly ap-pointed holder of Britain's first bingo research fellowship.

Faith Freestone, a former bingo caller turned student of the numbers game, is to spend the next two years exploring why licensed hingo is the nation's second favourite leisure postime after angling. Her studies will range wide-

ly, taking in the folklore of bingo - including the "two fat ladies" tradition of number

calling – and the history of the under hingo's spell while work- game from its first recorded ori- ing part-time in a club to sup- ing the curious phrases now slip- referred to as a Rainbow Hill, gins as "lotto" in eighteenth cen-

tury Italy.
Scorning the cliched image of women waiting in gloomy for-mer cinemas for their number to come up, she will develop her theory of six hingo-playing types, encompassing social adventurers, thrillseekers and es-

cape artists. Her research at Worcester College of Higher Education will also attempt for the first time to gauge the number of people employed by the hingo industry, which each week attracts 3 million nunters.

game from its first recorded ori- ing part-time in a club to supplement her grant during her first degree course. As well as selling the numbered cards, nationwide hingo. Number 25,

> 1 Just begun/Kelly's eye 3 Cup of tea 4 Door-to-door/On the floor Jack's alive Chopsticks Hope in Heaven

Garden gate 9 Doctor's orders (from the once-popular pill, No 9) 10 Big Ben/Cock and hen/ Downing Street/Major's den Mrs Freestone, 42, first fell

Eyes down for a full house 13 Uniucky for some 17 Never been kissed 21 Key to the door 22 Dinky doo

ing the curious phrases now slip-

ping out of use thanks to the

introduction of computerised.

26 Bed and breakfast (traditionally cost 2/6d) 76 She was worth it (7/6d, former cost of marriage certificate). 88 Two fat ladies 100 Top of the House

were more likely to gamble in other ways. after a local bus and its desti-Escapé artists, by her definination, "Was she worth it?", she

activity. Social adventurers

loved the excitement, and often

brought "accompanists" - fre-

quently a husband or younger

relative, while thrillseekers rel-

ished the adrenalin buzz and

tion, looked to bingo as a relief would cry when calling number from daily problems, and nov-76. since 7/6 was the old-monelty acts were the growing numcy price of a marriage licence. bers of mainly young people who Her appetite whetted, Mrs Freestone began a doctoral tried hingo as an unusual night out. Very few players, she found. thesis on hingo, dividing players into types. Lifeliners, she were attracted by cash prizes so much as the clusive thrill of a full found, were mainly elderly house. women living alone who relied on the game largely as a social

Mrs Freestone, though herself refusing to be categorised. still plays regularly, though con-fesses to being less than lucky. She said: "The winning is not really the issue - it is just the unique thrill of the build-up as the numbers are called."

Britain runs dry again -and it's only February

One thing man

mistereno da S**pecia**s

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SERVICE TO STREET THE

remember about the last great drought of 76, and the appointment of the sports minister. Denis Howell, to handle the crisis.

Yesterday, it looked as if an incoming Labour government might have to repeat history. January rustled to a close having had less than one-fifth of the average rainfall for the month. Rivers trickle, groundwater ta-hles are at record lows and water companies fret. It was the fourth driest Jan-

uary in records stretching back more than 300 years - hut one dry mouth does not make a drought. The water companies need a better excuse if they are once again to impose hose pipe bans and further restrictions in the summer.

They may have one. It has not only been a dry winter and au-tumn, but a dry decade. Since the end of September, which is when the annual recharge of Britain's aquifers, rivers and reservoirs begins, England and Wales have had only three quarters of the long-term average rainfall for October to January (while Scotland has had slight-

ly more than average).
And since 1988 the annual rainfall in England and Wales has been below the long-term average every year, apart from

So has the English climate altered, perhaps because of manmade global warming? The Meteorological Office says it is too early to say; the shortfalls too early to say, the shothais may be a random finctuation. But water company executives say there appears to be a permanent decline in rainfall.

First, says the agency, they include cutting leakage, building new pipelines to create regional water grids, and cleaning customers, campaign more dirty water for drinking water.



Dry run: The River Chess reduced to a trickle at Chesham

They argue that because of about the need to save, and inthis, and the steadily rising stall meters in homes with gardens which use the most water.

public demand for water, they need to expand resources, mainly by building new reser-Second, the companies should be made to co-operate more, so those with surplus voirs. That would involve persuading Ofwat, the water water transfer it to neighbourregulator, to allow them to ing companies running short. raise their bills in order to fi-And third, they should consider increasing the capacity of their existing dams.

Some senior officials in the If the dry weather continues Government's Environment into a hot summer, millions are Agency, which regulates water use, also believe the climate has likely to face restrictions again. become drier. But they say that But if there is average rainfall before spending hundreds of there are likely to be few millions of pounds drowning drought restrictions. countryside under reservoirs, Battered by criticism in 1995, the worst-hit companies began there are many cheaper things that water companies can do to work to make better use of sup-

eke out supplies.

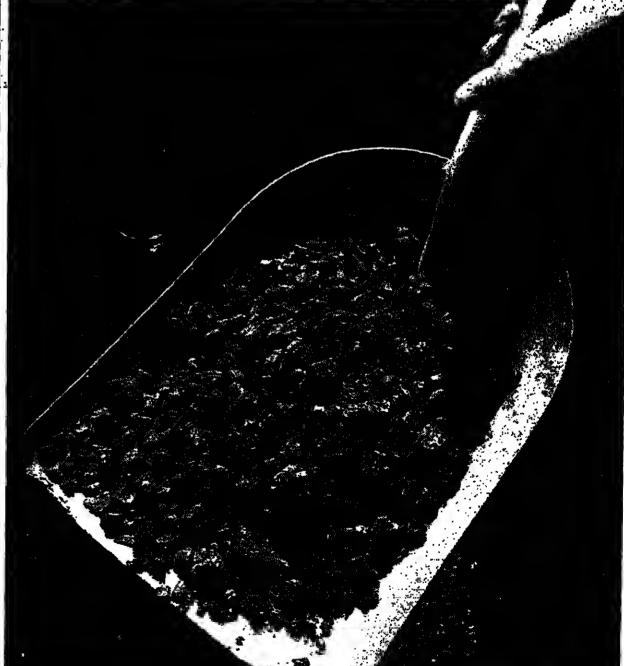
nance the construction.

Photograph: Keith Dobne But if 1997 is even drier still, suffice to hold up supplies. The

South-east has suffered one of the biggest rainfall deficits in the country over the past four months, and it shows. Winter pumping of water from the River Medway into Bewl Water, Kent and Sussex's largest reservoir, has had to stop because the flow in the river is

below the agreed minimum. Its owner, Southern Water has applied for a drought order to start taking water from the river, even though flows are be-low the agreed level.

Next year Southern starts a project to desalinate water from plies. At a cost of £400m, these an aquifer in East Kent. Folkestone and Dover Water is considering importing water from France, using the Channel tunnel's fire fighting mains.



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Swanee set to go down the river He proposed a song contest of Florida's history and said it

Phil Davison

-Way down upon de Swanee Ribber, far, far, away ... oh, darkeys, how my heart grows weary, far from de old folks at home. Some of the officially manuscripted lytics of "Swanee River, the tale of a homesick slave which became the official anthem of the state of Florida. But is it politically correct?

A hlack Democrat state congressman, Willie Logan, said yesterday he would table a bill to replace it with "a song about

song is about something we shouldn't be proud of in Florida," Mr Logan said. "It's about a slave who felt alone, disenfranchised, homeless. It has no place in 1997 as a song repre-

senting our state. He said he had been influenced by moves in Virginia to retire its official song, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia", because of its reference to "dark-

eys" and "old massa". Democratic congressmen defended "Swanee River" as part

among schoolchildren to come up with a new anthem. The song is about something we proving education. In recent years, most people have sung the word "brothers" instead of "darkeys" when the song is performed at state functions. It was written in 1851 by a

white man, Stephen Foster, of Pittsburgh. He had never set foot in Florida but wrote his lytics in what he considered the slave dialect. The name came from the Suwannee River, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico at Suwannee

tle-populated state known then for swamplands, sandbars, alligators and mosquitoes. "The song is about human dignity," said Deane Root, a music curator at the University of Pittsburgh. "How all of us have a need for a home and all of us have cherished memories, no matter how painful our life has been. I was offended when I first heard the word ("darkey") but I learned it had no negative or derisive connotations to Foster or in popular culture at the time, it's The song was a hit in the lat- like the word 'gay' in the past."

ited with drawing settlers to a lit-

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Dance away: Rehearsals under way yesterday at Wembley Arena in north-west London in preparation for performances to mark the 50th anniversary of Holiday on Ice Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Jail chiefs in dock for manacling dying man

lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Five senior prison managers, including a deputy governor, are facing disciplinary action for the treatment of a terminally ill innate who was handcuffed to a bed until just three hours before

The head of the Prison Service yesterday made an extra-ordinary public apology for the episode and suggested that "compassion and hamanity" had taken a back scat to unnecessarily tight security. Geoffrey Thomas, 25,

prisoner on remand at Cardiff jail who was facing burglary charges, died in a hospice of stomach cancer on 3 January.

The death of Mr Thomas. from Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, who had been transferred from Cardiff's University Hospital to the nearby Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth, prompted outrage from penal affairs groups and renewed the debate about handcuffing sick inmates.

An inquiry into the incident has concluded that the inmate was treated in a inhumane way. Disciplinary proceedings, which range from a warning to dismissal, have started against five managers from Cardiff

prison, the deputy governor, the senior medical officer, and three middle-managers. The then deputy governor, who has since left for a post at another jail, was in charge at the time of the incident, because the overnor was away on holiday. At this stage no action is being taken against the prison officers

who were guarding Mr Thomas. New guidelines on the use of handcuffs against inmates in hospital have been issued.

Richard Tilt, the directorgeneral of the Prison Service. said yesterday: "The conclusion of that inquiry, which I accept entirely, is that he was treated in an inconsiderate and inhumane way, and that may well have impeded his nursing care. and certainly caused him

an profoundly dissatisfied a high-risk category-A offend that this should have happened. and I wanted to apologise."

"I am absolutely determined that there will not be a repen-tion of this. What happened was unacceptable."

The director of security of the Prison Service, Tony Pearson, yesterday visited Mr Thomas's mother. Marina Davies, to apologise.

Mrs Davies, of Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, said: "I'm glad they have seen they have done wrong but nothing can make up for the suffering my son went through. "He was on his deathbed and

he should have been allowed to die in dignity. I begged them to take the handcuffs and chain off but they wouldn't listen.

"There is no way in the world he could escape. My son was dying in front of our very eves. Under the new guidelines handcuffs must automatically be removed if requested by med-

er. In future no prisoner should be handcuffed to any item or furniture - only to the guard. There must also be continuous communications between the

hospital and prison. The manager faces a range of sanctions, from reduction in grade, financial penalty, final written warning, or written

warnings about conduct. Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said: "The main culprii is Michael Howard, whose regulations about the manacling of prisoners have been made rithout concern for common humanity, and have created a climate of fear among prison

■ The Prison Service confirmed last night that it had bought a floating jail from the United States which was being brought to Britain by early March. It is expected to be moored in Portland harbour, Dorset, where it ical or senior nursing staff for will help case the overcrowding treatment unless the inmate is erisis.

Roads protesters plan their next site of action

Louise Jury

Anti-roads protesters evicted from three camps on the route of a major road improvement scheme in Devon vowed vesterday to carry on fighting - both on the A30 itself and at new sites around Britain.

Carol Johnston, the local coordinator of Devon Friends of the Earth, said: "This is not by

any means the end of the battle," Dave Howarth, 30, known as Muppet Dave, who spent seven days underground at Fairmile, near Honiton, Devon, said he had already informed police of his likely next steps.
"I've already told the police inelligence unit that f may be at Guildford and at Manchester ... I will continue in my efforts to fight against the needless de-

struction of my country." He annicipated that fellow tunnel-builders Swampy, and

fighting the road-widening scheme in Guildford, Surrey, and the proposed extension of Manchester airport.

Swampy, the last protester to emerge from the tunnels on Thursday night, appeared under his real name, Daniel Hooper, at Exeter magistrates' court yesterday, charged with obstrocting the under-sheriff of Devon. Mr Hooper, 23. of Hazlemere, Buckinghamshire, was granted conditional bail, but was immediately rearrested under a non-bail warrant issued by Newbury magistrates and was due to be transported to Newbury today or tomorrow morning.

The group is determined not to give up its campaign and some are expected to raise objections to adjoining road improvements between Honiton and Ilminster, Somerset, which were an-

nounced earlier this week.

Ron Bailey, the parliamen- under the Design, Build Finance tary officer for Friends of the and Operate scheme whereby Earth, praised the A30 Action campaign yesterday for their ef-forts in publicising road congestion. A Private Member's Bill intended to reduce traffic by 10 per cent by 2010 passed its second reading in the House of Commons last week, and Mr

Bailey said its success so far was due to the change in the political agenda created 10 per cent by the FoE's "wheeling and dealing" with MPs and 90 per cent by people such as the De-von campaigners. "What these people have achieved is not just the last straw," he said. making the insanity of roads a major issue, but [winning] the

support of Middle England. Trevor Coleman, the undersheriff of Devon, hopes to have secured the cleared Fairmile site. within a week and hand the land back to Counect, the consortium which is huilding the road

the Government repays the cost over 30 years based on the

number of cars using it. Security guards were glum afler the successful eviction and claimed that they were being laid off after only a week despite being promised two and a half year's work during construction. However, one, Robert Price, 22, from Bristol, decided to swap sides and join the protesters, for whom he had "a lot of respect". "It doesn't pay the rent, but when this happened it was

At Excter prison and Eastwood Park women's prison In Gloucestershire, four protesters arrested last Tuesday for going to Fairmile in breach of bail conditions continued a hunger strike yesterday, even now demanding a new inquiry into the financing of the A30 scheme.

Ratty gets protection for his home on the riverbank

Stephen Goodwin

The water vole, the misleadingly named "Ratty" of Wind in the Willows, was yesterday given a little assistance in its struggle for survival against the predatory American mink. Under proposals announced by John Gummer, Secretary of

State for the Environment, it will become an offence to disturb the water vole's riverbank home or holes where it shelters. The water vole, or water rat in Kenneth Grahame's classic,

is among 33 creatures and plants to be added to the list of species afforded special pro-tection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Other additions include the basking shark, the pool frog and the hluebell. An inoffensive vegetarian.

the water vole is not rare, and its population was recently estimated to be 1.2 million. But its range and numbers are in rapid decline. A national survey in 1989-90 failed to find signs of the vole at 67 per cent of the riverside sites where it was pre-



Ratty and mole relaxing in 'Wind in the Willows

The decline is partly due to the destruction of its riverside habitat by wash from boats, bank repairs and recreation

However the biggest threat to the vole appears to be the American mink, which was imported for fur farming and now, having escaped into the

wild, is a voracious predator. Protection of its dwindling habitat should give the water vole a better chance of surviving the depredations of the mink. The penalty for distur-

bance or damage will be a fine of up to £1,000. Bluebells have become endangered in some areas where for sale in garden centres. Basking sharks, found off the Isle of Man and the coast of Scotland.

are under threat from fishing.
But one species, the vipers bugloss moth, has recovered to such an extent that it is no longer in danger and is to be removed from the protected list.

The full list of animals is: waite shad, water vole, basking shark, giant goby, Couch's goby, pool frog, fan mussel, fiery clearwing moth, marine hy-droid, southern damselfly, Fish-er's estuarine moth, stag beetle, allis shad, marsh fritillary, large copper butterfly and the pearl

The plants which have been recommended for protection are: Deptford pink, dwarf spike rush, bluebell, cutgrass, south stack fleawort, long leaved anomodon, long leaved threadmoss, flamingo moss, polar feather-moss, alpine sulphur-tresses, goblin lights, convolutcladonia, New Forest beech-lichen, sandy stilt puffball, royal bolete, oak polybore and the hedgehog fungus.

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Baby-milk salmonella strain linked to outbreak in France

Michael Streeter

Three babies in France suffering from salmonella poisoning may have the same strand as British children in the recent baby milk powder scare.

According to a French pressure group, which has contacted local health authorities, the three infants suffered in December from the same strain of the illness linked with the Milupa firm a week ago, when one of their products was withdrawn from sale in Britain and

At the time the Dutch-owned company said the product linked to the 10 cases in Britain was the Milumel for Hungrier Bottle Fed Babies product. which is only sold in this

ministry of health, has told they were unable to confirm any French campaigners that out of the three case of salmonella anatum at least two of the infants had been using Milumel. Another agency has said one of the children had been using a

cereal-based Milupa product. All the products are said to track back to the company's factory in Colmar, northorn

A spokeswoman for the Public Health Laboratory Service in Britain said they were aware of the French cases, which had come to light after they contacted other European countries over the Salmnet network which exchanges information on

outbreaks of the illness. However, until they were able to carry out genetic "fin-

connection. At present there was only a "presumptive" link with the outbreak in Britain. Pascale Walter, of Action

pour l'Allaitment in France, a breast-feeding pressure group, said three different French authorities had confirmed the She said: "I cannot under-

tive about this. People know there is a problem." Pattie Rundall, international co-ordinator of Baby Milk Action, said the public needed more information about the problem, which she feared could be much wider than

stand why people are so secre-

reported. Dr Colin Michie, consultant psediatrician at Ealing and Hammersmith hospitals, said he

Générale de la Sante, part of the two outbreaks were related had heard of the French cases, which he described as "very worrying".

"It only needs a few organ-

isms to affect an infant. We need to be happy that the factories and products are safe." The Department of Health. which a week ago called for the withdrawal of the Milumel product after 10 cases of the illness were linked with it, said

they were aware of the devel-

opment but were awaiting news

from the French authorities. A spokeswoman for Milupa said that their Colmar factory had undergone three separate inspections and no problems had been found. She added that the salmonella in France could be a separate strain from that in the British cases, but meanwhile they were co-operating fully with all the authorities.

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Tebbit calls on Euro-sceptics to ets sail provoke crisis

The former Tory Cabinet min-ister Lord Tebbit yesterday supremacy of British legislation ister Lord Tebbit yesterday called on defenders of British parliamentary sovereignty to "save Europe from itself" by hitting back as advocates of a

'United States of Europe". In the Lords debate on the second reading of a Bill that would, in effect, lead to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, the leading Euro-scep-tic Lord Tebbit gave it his backing, saying that it would provoke the "crisis that is needed" to solve difficulties

The European Communi-ties (Amendment) Bill, introduced by Lord Pearson of Rannoch, would repeal crucial sections of the 1972 Act which followed the United Kingdom's Photograph: Andrew Buurman | accession to the then Common

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over the EU's.

Lord Tebbit told peers the history of the EU was analogous to a game of rugby, but the federalists were pushing back those who were fighting for sovereignty. "Year by year, we who defend national sovereignty are being pushed back," he said.

"It's time that the ball was kicked very long and very hard back the other way, preferably back into touch for a while, in order that we can think how we can save Europe from itself."

The remarks of a senior figure such as Lord Tebbit, a former Conservative Party chairman and secretary of state for trade and industry in Baroness Thatcher's government, again exposed lory divisions on Europe.

Lord Tebbit also took a swipe at the Toyota motor company, which earlier this week said that Britain's failure to join a single currency could affect the Japanese company's decision on whether to build a factory in the UK. He suggested that statement was a ploy designed to secure a subsidy from the EU to establish a new plant in Europe.

Lord Tebbit warned that the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and others were intent on creating a "United States of Europe", but Britain wanted to retain its sovereignty within a common market. He said it was open to the French and Germans to go ahead with closer union, provided it was out-side the Treaty of Rome, the blueprint of the EU.

"It was, after all, not the European Union which we joined. It was the European Common Market which we joined. That is where our interest lies," he said. "There is an alternative way in which we can all achieve what we want within Europe they their union, we our common market."

decisions on these matters will have to be made. We cannot continue to procrastinate." Lord Tebbit went on: "Nor do

I think it proper that we should always be a brake on their four partners] progress to what they want to do. Wisely or unwisely they bave an agenda. If we can devise a means by which they can satisfy the needs of their agenda and we can satisfy the needs of ours, surely that is the right way to go.
"The Bill before us, if en-

acted, would create the crisis in Europe which is needed for the discussions to begin to make a serious effort to solve these problems. That is why I would commend it to the House."

He said: "It would be a great tragedy if forever relationships between members of the European Community were to be poisoned by the dispute in which others wish to drag us in one direction and we wish to restrain them from going in the direction which they wish to go."

Sooner or later a crisis would arise, be said, "because, above all, there is a headlong conflict over the shape, structure, purpose and the destination of the Union; because the existing institutions which were designed by six member states cannot work, in a management sense let alone a political sense, for a Europe of 20 or more states".

He said it was not European socialism that was the threat but "corporatism".

Responding to an attack by Liberal Democrat Lord Taverne on "Euro-septicaemia" among supporters of the Bill, Lord Tebhit said: "I think there is a sickness in our body politic.

"That septicaemia is a parliamentary septicaemia. It is Brussels which is in the blood of this Parliament and it is the EU which is threatening this

Union anger

Colin Brown and **Barrie Clement**

Labour signalled it would enforce helow-inflation pay awards which are expected to be agreed by the Cahinet next week, despite protests by trade husiness that he would not inunions representing some of the crease spending or the upper 1.3 million public-sector work- and basic rates of income tax,

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, warned the unions there would be "no blank cheque" for public-sector workers under a Labour government as the Cabinet was poised to stage the payment of rises of 3.2 to 3.4 per cent recommended by

the pay review bodies. Senior government sources confirmed the Cabinet would hold down the pay increases to below the 2.5 per cent inflation rate in the first stage, delaying the second instalment of up to 1.4 per cent to later in the year for the groups covered by the pay review bodies, including doctors, dentists, groups allied to medicine, and teachers.

Rodney Biekerstaffe, the leader of Unison, said it was "totally unacceptable" to pay the awards in two stages, although he welcomed the higher-than-inflation recommendations for "deserving" low-paid workers.

Boh Abberley head of Unison's health workers' section,

said that such a move would be "totally unfair", and Doug McAvoy, of the National Union of Teachers, declared: "I would expect Labour to honour these recommendations in full." The comments of senior union leaders reflect growing frustration behind the scenes

public coticism of Labour in the run-up to the election. That strategy was sorely tested by Mr Brown's comments that in government he would abide by the public expenditure limits laid down by the Chan-

over their policy of minimising

cellor of the Exchequer. However, Mr Brown said: We will wait and see what is recommended ... But I have got to be responsible and credible courage husiness, he said the about what is going to happen in the future."

The shadow Chancellor told a conference for small businesses that Labour would take public-sector pay within tough cash limits. "With Labour, all

public-sector pay agreements must be financed from within the agreed departmental cash limits upon which departments must now plan ... So there can Portille

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be no blank cheques." Reaffirming his assurances to the sbadow Chancellor said a comprehensive spending review would be one of the first tasks of an incoming Labour government.

The objective of the review would be to investigate how a Labour government could reshape expenditure into the next century to encourage work, a fair society and investment. Labour will publish for the



Gordon Brown: "I have got to be responsible and credible'

first time a business manifesto next month, followed by a business summit headed by Tony Blair, Mr Brown and Margaret Beckett, shadow President of the Board of Trade. Mr Brown believes the min-

imum wage is vital to the welfare-to-work strategy he will be laying out in the Crosland Memorial Lecture in two weeks' time, but small businesses would be consulted about the level before it was set.

Setting out five goals for a Labour government to enguiding principles would be stability and low inflation; tough rules on public expenditure and borrowing; high levels and improved quality of investment. "a firm and fair approach" to a new skills revolution to boost productivity; and "constructive engagement" in Europe-



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Section

A Activities

general areas

56-39 (6) 505

sets sail for one more battle with the young guns lan Burrell At war with the last two leaders of his own party. Sir Edward Heath is now under siege in his own parliameotary constituency as political rivals prepare to do battle for the seat at the gen-Midway through his 81st year, Sir Edward faces a multiple threat at the hustings. One

rival - the Liberal Democrat candidate - is so young that he was not even born when Mr Heath first moved mto No 10; another - the Referendim Party caodidate - is a former Downing Street adviser who used to help write his speech-es. But any politician once described as "a vast old battleship of the Dreadnought class" will

take some beating.
For the past 46 years he has represented the interests of the people of north Kent in Westminster; first as the MP for Bexley and now for the newer seat of Old Bexley and Sidcup.

Despite his age, and the fact that he lives nearly 100 miles away in Salisbury, Sir Edward is still seco as a local boy made good; the son of a Kent carpenter who grew up to be prime

The President of the Oxford Union in 1939, he led the Conservatives to general election victory seven months before one of his chief rivals in the

coming poll was even born.

Iain King, 26 last Wednesday
and the Liberal Democrat candidate for the seat, is hoping to turn age into an election issue. He points out that 43 per cent of voters in the constituency are under 40, and claims that voters are telling him that they are looking for a younger MP.

There is a view that he is a hit past it," Mr King said. "I get the impression that he is a bit bored with it all."

Mr King, who grew up in Gloucestershire before going to Oxford University, was briefly editor of a national student newspaper. For the past four years he has worked at the Liberal Democrats' headquarters in Westminster, where he

ward's "hig achievement was tally wrong on Europe", but says getting into Europe" but thinks that although he has chosen to able to pational voters, the



After 46 years in Parliament, 'old Dreadnought'

currency is the real election is-

One person who would strongly disagree with him is one of Sir Edward's former aides. Brian Reading, 60 - an economic adviser between 1966 and messages of party policy into half of Sir James Goldsmith's

-Referendum Party. He concedes that Sir Ed . He believes Sir Edward is "to-

grudge and hopes the issues can be discussed without "fudge or

rancout". gle currency if it gives up con-trol of both national taxes and public spending. "As long as na-tional parliaments are answer-

hoss he bears no personal taxes or cut spending is con- with one of the highest prostrained by what the electorate

will accept." He said Britain's relationship Now working as an economic consultant and writer, Mr too far, "Many British laws are Reading, 60, believes that now made in Brussels, with a council of ministers. The of the constituency. British people do not appear to realise that this is happening."

The Old Bexley and Sidcup constituents appear to represent that health and not the single stand directly against his former ability of governments to raise the epitome of Middle England,

portion of owner occupiers and the lowest percentage of nonwhites of any constituency in the country. Boundary changes, however, have meant a further 10,000 voters being drawn into area from the

In between voting at Westminster last week, Sir Edward said he was confident and "wellorganised" for the coming campaign. He pointed out that is out of step with his own par-

many of the older voters will know him from his days as Bexley MP prior to 1974.

The boundary changes may help the Labour candidate who Sir Edward's supporters regard as their greatest threat to his ham, 30, is a local councillor and trade union official, who has lived all his life in the constituency. His task, he says, is to show the voters that Sir Edward

ty. "I've got to get over to the

Conservative.

people that while a lot of Sir Edward's values are quite honourable they are not going to see them implemented by voting Mr Justham's confidence is in-

the Tories will not be able to attack him for being soft on Europe when he is standing against the man who took Britain into the Common Market.

He hopes that the Referen-

Then and now: Edward Heath (left) acknowledging victory in his Bexley constituency in the March 1966 general election at which the Tories were beaten by Labour. Heath would have to wait until 1970 before forming a

Main photograph: UPPA

dum Party and the fringe UK Independence Party will help him to unseat the former prime minister. "I believe that if they get the right-wing Tory vote then I will be able to sneak through the middle," he said,

Being in the middle, however, is part of Labour's problem. The party needs to present itself as an alternative to the Government but will find it hard to beat Sir Edward's own record as an outspoken critic of both the Thatcher and the Major od

As recently as last week, the "old Dreadnought" returned to the fray to attack Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, over the bandling of a replacement for the royal yacht

Sir Edward's criticisms do not appear to have harmed him in the eyes of the electorate and to get to the left of him. Even Mr King, the Liberal Democrat candidate, admitted: "Some of the things he said as prime minister would now be vetoed by Tony Blair as too left-wing."

Portillo comes to aid of dumped Gardiner

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The threat that Sir George Gardiner could hecome a Euro-sceptic martyr increased vesterday when the Secretary of State for Defence Secretary. Michael Portillo, came to his

Mr Portillo, a leading Euro-sceptic in the Cabinet, called for "tolerance" in the party after Sir George's Reigate constituency voted to deselect him on account of his disloyalty to the Prime Minister over the Government's refusal to rule out a single European currency. George was extremely un-

wise and very rude to make some of the remarks he made about the Prime Minister," said Mr Portillo. "However, I believe we are a tolerant party and I am sorry to see people being asked to leave their seats after they have given good service to their

"I hope we can continue to. show tolerance towards a very broad strand of opinion. We are a very broad church." During a visit to a British

Aerospace factory in Lan-



Portillo: Praised Sir George's (right) constituency work

cashire, which is engaged in the Eurofighter project, Mr Portillo admitted that Sir George's actions had not been helpful to the Conservative cause in the run-up to a general election.

Everyone should be careful about what they say and bear in mind the consequences of what they say. But even if they say things out of line, I hope we can show tolerance for them.



not to stand as an independent. "I only support candidates who are Conservative, so George must bear that firmly in mind,"

John Major sidestepped a question about how sad he was over the departure of Sir George, who was deselected after describing the Prime Minister as Kenneth Clarke's 'ventriloquist's dummy He advised the rebel MP Mr Major said he believed the independence of the Tory constituency associations was a very great strength within the Conservative Party, which he

had no intention of changing. "That means that the selection of candidates is a matter entirely and completely for the constituency parties and I have not in the past, will not now, will not in the future, interfere in their selections of candidates,

said Mr Major. Sir George was saying nothing yesterday about his dese-

The blinds were drawn at his home, near Dorking, and the telephone was off the book. His wife answered the door, but only to tell reporters: "I can't comment at all. My husband will not make a statement for another

Lady Gardiner later left their home, saying that her husband was oot there, and she would not speculate on reports that he was consulting solicitors about

the legality of the vote. His constituency association has already hegun the process of trying to find a new candidate to replace Sir George at the next

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Fresh nuclear waste blow

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The Government must block plans to build an underground nuclear waste dump at Sellafield in Cumbria, a former top ministerial adviser has warned the the Secretary of State for the

Environment, John Gummer. Nirex, the company planning the underground dump, has run into severe problems in trying to establish that radiation would oot reach the surface, says Professor Sir John Knill, who from 1987 to 1995 was chairman of the Government's Radioactive Waste Manage-

ment Advisory Committee. In a damning letter to Mr Gummer, Sir John advises him not to grant planning permission

laboratory Nirex is planning at Sellafield, which would pave the way for the full-scale repository intended to take most of Britain's radioactive waste.

He says he helieves that Nirex's scientific studies into how water flows through the rocks at the site - which is crucial to its safety - had run into severe difficulties. The company now knew, but had not yet admitted, that the problems were much greater than had been thought a few years ago and more test drilling was

A planning inquiry into the proposed laboratory, headed by an inspector, took place last year. Mr Gummer now has the inspector's report, and has to decide whether to give the goahead. Nirex wants digging for

the laboratory to start as soon as possible. But in the meantime, Cumbria

County Council and the environmental campaign group Friends of the Earth have pubheised a leaked internal memorandum to senior staff at Nirex indicating that much more data on the rocks is needed. Sir John's letter is a response to that leak. The site at Longlands Farm.

near Gosforth, is two miles from British Nuclear Fuci's Sellafield reprocessing plant. So far Nirex has spent £200m investigating the fractured volcanic rock beneath the surface, but the memorandum from the company's director of science, John Holmes, revealed that its computer modellers wanted between 10 and 100 times more data.

reliably model the flow of water through the rock, which needs to be capable of containing the long-lived radioactive waste for 100,000 years. The worry is that radioactively contaminated water could rise to Sir John's letter says: "Dr

Holmes' minute reflects a starkdifferent assessment of the likelihood of achieving an acceptable safety case for a deep repository ... as compared to any that has been published by Nirex previously." Michael Meacher, Labour's

environment spokesman, said: "Sir John's letter has exposed a history of complacency, misinformation and delay around the planning process for the un-derground laboratory." The scientists are concerned



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Pushbike licks Aston Martin in the race to unclog London

Christian Wolmar

The RAC began its centenary celebrations yesterday by showing that cars are a waste of time. A race through the centre of London, set up by the motoring organisation and involving vehicles ranging from a 1901 French-built Mors and a 1910 horse-drawn carriage to a 1997 Aston Martin and mountain bike, showed that the horse and

cart was almost as quick as the The RAC has changed. No longer does it promote the gung ho "motorists are king" which has been its ethos for most of the past century. "We champion for mobility, rather than the motorist" said its chief executive, Neil Johnson. It has bowed to the inevitable, aware that untrammelled freedom of

the motorist is no longer viable.
Indeed, as part of its celebrations it has issued a charter "to keep our cities moving" and the race was an exercise to show that that our cities, or at least the cars in them, are now barely moving.

The charter is also full of the sort of sensible stuff that one is more used to hearing from its opponents in the environmental lobby such as spending more on public transport and reduc-ing pollution. The RAC even wants to pedestrianise part of had passed us in Piccadilly. Trafalgar Square to improve the With the engine sounding hell Trafalgar Square to improve the With the engine sounding hell capital's environment. and fury, Mr Johnson went

MATELIA BRIDGE II

Aston Martin DB7. It was not a wise decision. Aston Martins are not designed for third parties. They can just about fit chil-dren under seven, but anyone else has to forego the seat belts and lie across the back with their head against the back windscreen, praying the driver does not go over a pothole.

Mr Johnson, who was driving the borrowed Aston Martin -"we're fully insured, I checked"
- was clearly itching to break the
speed limit and the rules, and possibly this reporter's head, as he sped away from the start, just off Pall Mall. The route was to take us down Piccadilly through theatre-land, round Trafalgar Square, down the Mall and back to Pall Mall, a circuit of just over three miles.

But all the power of the engine was wasted. Piccadilly was hell, blocked from one end to the other and the Daily Mail man in the front seat tried vainly to find the traffic news on the over-complex radio. "We could have walked here

more quickly," groaned Mr Johnson who confessed that he normally walked around London or used a 50cc moped. It was only a fire engine that

saved us from the ignominy of being beaten by the more ma-The Independent's reporter through a red light at the top of forsook his normal bicycle for Trafalgar Square, saving a cou-



Time trial: A 1901 Mors in yesterday's race around London organised by the RAC to mark its centenary. The Mors came second behind a bicycle

ple of minutes. Inevitably the cyclist, Kevin Delaney, won. Mr Delaney, is an expert on the vagaries of London's roads, having been the

police chief superintendent in charge of the city's traffic until he moved to the RAC a couple trouble clocking up just under of years ago and was famous for riding round in his uniform. He average speed of 12.6mph. The

third at 7.7mph. However, the Mors, which seemed to be horse-drawn carriage, was only blessed with good fortune through the traffic came second a minute behind, managing a creditable 7.4mph despite obey-ing all the red lights. "I don't lie affairs. eight minutes behind at 8.4mph. while the Aston Martin was

quipped one of its passengers. David Worskett, who happens to be the RAC's director of pub-

Scientists are ignored in ecstasy debate

Charles Arthur Science Editor

It is almost certain that Michael Morgan, John Henry and Val Curran know more about the effects of ecstasy than Oasis star Noel Gallagher or any of the MPs who have lined up to criticise him. But while the latter have enjoyed a high media profile in the past few days, none of the others has occupied a moment of airtime or a word of newsprint

The reason? They are scientists who have performed research into ecstasy - and so, in the strange world of the drugs debate, their knowledge, which might inform the present argu-

with research here is that the smallest thing gets blown out of proportion 9

ments, is quietly overlooked. However, all feel strongly that there is too little research going on to study the effects of long-term use of the drug, and that the media's constant attention, allied to the drug's outlaw status, makes it almost impossible to carry out useful work in the UK.

Unlike the debate over a possible link between mad cow disease, BSE, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, in which scientists were thrust into the limelight, the ecstasy debate has almost ignored them. Unlike CID or BSE, there is no government money for studies into its effects. "I think it's because BSE was the Government's fault," said one researcher yesterday, "whereas ecstasy is self-inflicted. They can

wash their hands of it." There are only a handful of UK studies involving animals or

search is a small fraction of that published worldwide into the ef-fects of the drug. The Medical Research Council has funded only one project into it, and that

ended three years ago.

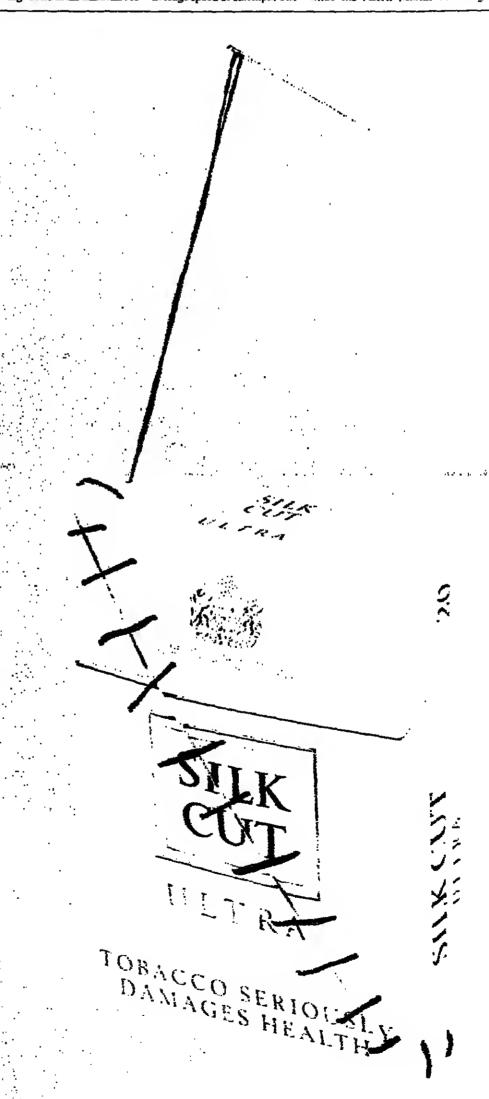
Dr Morgan, at the department of psychology at the University of Swansea, recently completed a study which suggests that regular users suffer damage to their problem-solving abilities and their short-term memory. But he has chosen to submit his work not to a UK publisher, but to the American Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology. "The problem with doing human research here is that the smallest thing gets blown out of proportion. My aim in submitting it in the US was to keep it in the scientific world, rather than the media."

Dr Henry, at the National Poisons Information Unit at Guy's Hospital, is the only scientist in the country with a licence to provide pure ecstasy. But he also feels that the polarisation of the debate is holding back research. "It's a very important subject which deserves study. If we have anywhere between 50,000 and 500,000 people taking it every weekend, there's a need to know what it does in the majority of cases."

The focus on the few tragic short-term cases is skewing the public's notion of the important issues, he believes. "Ten or 20 deaths now is nothing, compared to the the possibility of epidemic depressive illness as these people grow up - with the attendant suicides that follow," he says.

Dr Curran, a senior lecturer at University College, London, has also completed a study—due to be published later this year - showing a "midweek dip" of depression among regular ec-stasy users. "There's certainly not enough research going on," she said. "But it is very difficult to do because it's illicit.
"The media attention may

have helped because it brings the subject to the minds of the committees who fund research. But the money on that level is going towards BSE." Leading article, page 19



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news

Family of Iris Bentley vow to battle on for brother's pardon

Mourners at yesterday's funeral of Iris Bentley were urged to carry on her fight to win a pardon for her hrother Derek, hanged in 1953 for the murder of a policeman.

They also heard the Home Office denounced during the funeral service for its "callous indifference" in refusing to bring forward a decision which could clear Bentley's name so that his sister would have known the outcome before her death.

Miss Bentley campaigned

tirelessly for a pardon until her death last week from cancer, aged 65. Speakers at yesterdzy's service in Collier's Wood, south London, said her fight had changed the face of British justice. Her daughter Maria Dingwall, 34, vowed to continue the battle. A note on the wreath she laid read; "Mum, you can trust me to fight to the hitter end. I will get the pardon. That is

my prayer to you."

Beotley denied urging his



Iris Bentley and her brother Derek, who was hanged, aged 19. She battled for 40 years to get him pardoned

16-year-old accomplice. Christopher Craig, to shoot PC Sidney Miles after a botched hurgiary in Croydon. south London, hut he was condemned to death aged 19 after a much criticised trial. His story was dramatised in the film Let Him Have It - the words he was alleged to have



shouted moments before the

murder. Craig escaped capital punishment because of his age, and was released in 1963. Miss Bentley was laid to rest alongside her brother in

Croydon cemetery. One of the victories in her long hattle

moved there from a prison

was to have his remains

hurial ground. A floral tribute from her closest family bore the words: "Iris, the fight

carries on".

In April, Bentley's case is due to be one of the first to be presented at the Criminal Cases Review Commission for referral to the Court of Appeal. ft is also believed that the Home Office will soon announce a decision on whether to grant a pardon in the light of new evidence.

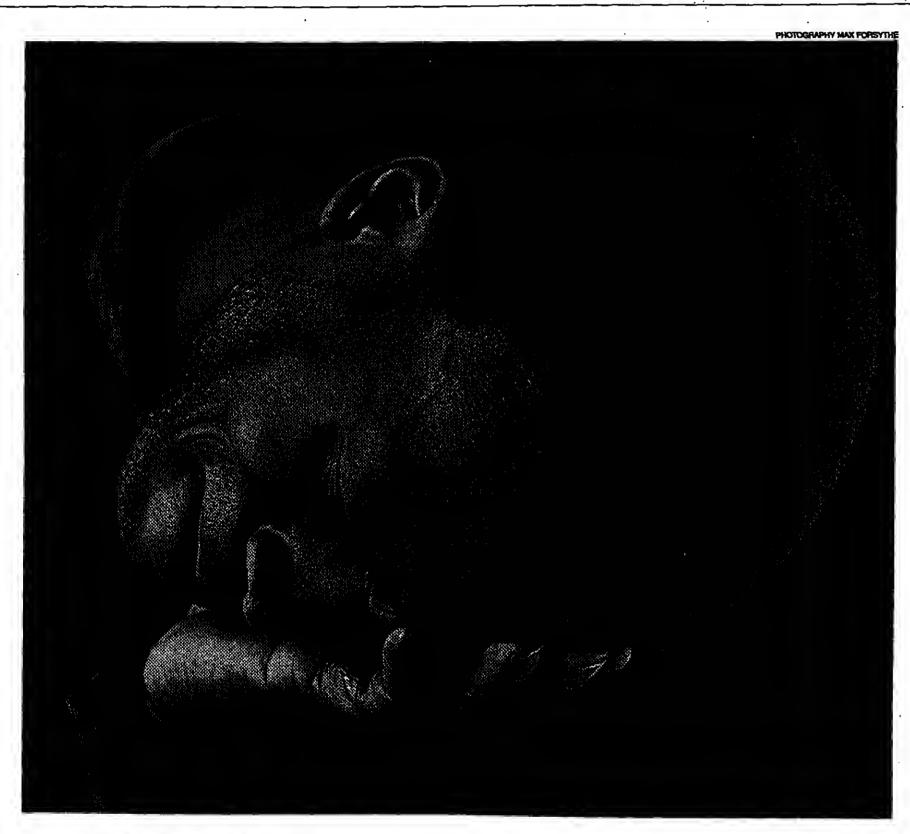
At yesterday's service, solicitor Benedict Birnberg disclosed that a plea to the Home Office last October to bring the decision forward in the light of Miss Bentley's illness had been rejected. He said it was typical of the "callous indifference" with which she had been treated by

Labour MP Joan Lestor told mourners: "I am here to salute a great campaigner, an outstanding woman, who has made a major contribution to British justice and our society.



Fighting on: Maria Dingwall, Iris Bentley's daughter, at the funeral yesterday

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths



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Mackay attack on adjourned sentences

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, issued an emphatic call last night for an end to the "adjournment culture" in youth courts, which was encouraging persistent young offenders to believe they were getting away

with their crimes. The warning, in the first of a series of meetings with magis-trates, was coupled with an showed a "disturbingly high explicit reminder that" prison manufact of all or passes in ould be reserved for more serious cases and only used in last.

resort for fine defaulters. Urging Newcastle-upon-Tyne magistrates to "get tough" on lawyers seeking repeated adjournments, Lord Mackay said youth courts had to be able to link in the mind of the young person the consequences of criminal behaviour, and the punishment with the offending behaviour itself.

Advice receotly issued by the Magistrates Association and the Justices' Clerks Society already suggests that in cases of "spree offending" by juveniles on bail, JPs should depart from the usual practice of tying up all outstanding cases so that they can be dealt with together. This approach was firmly endorsed by Lord Mackay yes-

terday. "It's important that the magistrates should understand that they are in charge," be said. He urged the Newcastle justices last night to be "careful to ensure that the period of the

adjournment is used effectively by all concerned and that one adjournment will not simply lead to another request for a further adjournment at a later stage in the case."

Once the link between the crime and the outcome of the court case was broken, the notion of "getting away with it" was reinforced in the offender's mind, he said. Last autumn's scathing Au-

dit Commission report oo juvenile justice, Misspent Youth, eor a low key response from the Government, Bullford Mackay invoked the spending watchunderstandable reasons. It reports an average of four appearances in the course of a

youth court case. This is in no-one's interests, least of all that of the young accused."
The Lord Chancellor also appeared prepared to challenge the current obsession with imprisonment. "If I may speak ... directly, prison is a key deter-rent to criminal behaviour and oceds to be reserved for the more serious cases." The eight-

fold increase in immediate cus-

todial sentences over the last 10

years was "staggering", he said. "That is not to say that the sentences were not justified but such increases must give cause for reflection. It is not sensible for prisons to be full of petty offenders who can better be dealt with in other ways," he

He urged magistrates to ensure that fines were seen as a punishment rather than getting off lightly. Courts should settle payment arrangements at the point at which the fine was inposed, Lord Mackay suggested. "It is worth asking the offend-er explicitly. What are you going to pay today?".

'Son lied over mother killing'

accused with his sons of killing their mother, yesterday aileged that his teenage son deliberately implicated him in order to escape the hlame.

Mr Howells told Leeds Crown Court that he had never discussed ways of killing his wife, Eve, with his sons John and Gleng, despite John's claims in evidence that his father had talked about it several times in the year before her death.

. Mrs Howells, 48, a teacher, was bludgeomed to death in the living room of her home in Huddersfield. West Yorkshire, in August 1995. The court has heard that

Glenn attacked his mother with a hammer and John got rid of the weapon and bloody clothes. Mr Howells, a maintenance engineer, was playing darts two miles away when she died and

that he knew nothing of a pact until after his wife's death and had not plotted with his sons. Franz Muller QC, for the prosecution, said that John had

claimed that "we all put our

had "the perfect alibi". He told the court yesterday

He asked Mr Howells: "All that is wicked lies to get himself off the hook at your expense; is that the position?" Mr Howells replied: "It seems like

that to me, yes Mr Howells told the court he thought John was "scared". "He was trying to make it easier for himself by maybe trying to spread the blame on to all. three of us ... All I'm saying is I wouldn't have expected my son

to say that."

The court heard that when Mr Howells was told by a neighbour after the attack that "something terrible" had happened at his home, he failed to ask how his wife was.

Mr Muller said: "This is the woman whom you loved and ber death broke your heart, and you didn't even bother to ask what happened to her." David denied that this was because he knew

exactly what had happened David, 48, Glenn, 17, and John, 15, all deny murder. Glenn admits manslaughter on the grounds of provocation. The trial continues.

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Leading a national team to triumph in cricket, with its clearcut rules, is quite distinct from mastering the murky intrigues of Pakistani politics. Two days before the election for prime minister, Imran Khan, who five years ago was idolised for winning his nation the World Cup. is reeling from the smear campaign aimed at his anti-corruption idealism.

His seasoned opponents, both former prime ministers. were cynical enough to appro-priate the gist of his reformist zeal into their own sketchy party manifestoes. Mr Khan has conceded in public that a victory now "would be a miracle" and that his Movement for Justice (Tehreek-i-Insaaf) Party "may not even win a single seat".

While local newspaper headlines gloated yesterday over new accusations that Mr Khan had once slapped Sita White, the heiress whose paternity suit against him in Los Angeles has made their alleged illegitimate daughter one of the hottest topics of this race, Mr Khan has retreated to campaign in the Northwest Frontier province of Swar

The conservative Pathans there welcome him as a clan brother and his admiration for their ethos has become obvious, at least since his mid-life crisis, wheo he gave up his Armani suits for traditional tunics and

baggy trousers. Mr Khan's recent book, published in Urdu, extolled the aus- reports" as "above all, so un-Istere life of Pathan warriors and lamic. No one benefits from advocates their code of honour. reading this oonsense," she

juror in OJ

by the judge



halting Urdu.

ed how Mr Khan crossed in

front of a friend during a shoot-

slapped me across the face in

front of everybody. I was just in

Afterwards, Mr Khan re-

of his personality."

on a shooting expedition' But by suggesting that of-fenders who steal from the nation ought to be executed, the Oxford graduate has stunned the country's intelligentsia Many now feel his best chance of success as a mainstream

politician lies in distancing himself from religious extremists. Ms White dropped her plan to confront Mr Khan in Pakistan over his denial of fathering Tyrian Jade, aged four. But yesterday she denounced him from California in an interview with The Nation, an English daily, published in Labore.

"He was the father," she said. Her earlier allegations that he had tried to talk her into an abortion because the baby was not male damaged Mr Khan's popular image as a man committed to Islamic ideals.

Mr Khan countered her attack by proxy through his young British wife, Jemima, who extolled his virtues on televisioo and dismissed the "salacious



ing expedition and hagged the bird for himself. "We were all discussing it. Imran had fired past him. Then Imran actually Campaign trailing: Imran Khan out on the stump, where his bid to become prime minister appears doomed to failure

girlfriend: "Even if the tiger is wrong, you should say that he is right." Ms White dismissed shock. I had never seen that side reports in the London papers that she was jealous of her portedly told his stricken

tions, "I don't know Jemima." she said. "She seems very young and innocent, and easy to push around. I feel sorry for her." Nascem Zehra, the spokes-

woman for Mr Khan's party.

said: "We think this whole Sita White husiness is tacky. The timing is vicious. We do not want to comment.

Tonight, the candidate will fly

fore the vote. Mr Khan's fol-the election campaign. But a lowers accuse Nawaz Sharif. who most analysts believe will win the election, of manipulating Sita White into timing her embarrassing paternity suit for to blame."

spokesman for Mr Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League shrugged this off, saying: "If Imran's past earches up with him, we are not



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case removed

Tim Cornwell Los Angeles

As the jury entered their fourth day of deliberations in the OJ Simpson civil trial yesterday, the judge Hiroshi Fujisaki dismissed the only black juror, a widow in her sixties. The woman was replaced because her daughter worked as a legal secretary in the office of Los Angeles district attorney Gil Garcetti. Mr Garcetti oversaw Mr Simpson's criminal prosecution, but the judge only learned the connection yester-day, CNN reported. The judge ordered the jury to begin de-liberating anew. A new juror was selected by lottery from a handful of alternates. He is an Asian American computer pro-

grammer. Network anchors have descended in force to Camp OJ by the sea, as the media village out-



Simpson: Jurors appear to be still debating his liability

side the Santa Monica courthouse is known. The TV pundits who have been so free with their opinions in recent months went strangely quiet this week. When the jury in the criminal trial announced it had reached a verdict after only four hours, a wild guessing game followed. No one is willing to chance their arm for the re-run. Frustration over the waiting game has been tinged

At least this time, it appears, jurors are making a show of examining the evidence - if only to avoid the scorn which was heaped on their predecessors.

"If the jury is taking this seriously, it is really good news," observed Valerie Sayers, professor at the University of Notre Dame, on CNN. "I think they

when they face the public that they want to cross every t and dot every i," said Laurie Levenson, associate dean of Loyola University law school.

Mr Simpson is being sued for wrongful death and "battery" by the families and estates of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, who were found murdered in June 1994.

The jurors have to find out whether it is "more likely than not" that he killed them. They were reported as looking relaxed as they filed into court on Thursday to have testimony read back. If not deadlocked however, it appeared they were still debating the issue of his li-ability, and have not turned to

the question of damages. In requests to the judge, the purors asked first for a magnifying glass in order to examine the photographs which allegedly show Mr Simpson wearing the Italian-designed shoes matched with bloody footprints

at the murder scene. Since then, their interest has apparently turned to defence claims that the police massaged or mishandled the pivotal blood evidence. They asked to see enlarged photographs of DNA test results and watched a police inventory video of Mr Simpson's bedroom which shows no socks on his floor.

The defence alleges that the socks, with splashes of blood, were planted. They reviewed two other videos featuring the police witness Dennis Fung. whose shaky performance in both trials has been a boon for the defence. One showed him carrying a paper bag holding the bloody glove found at Mr Simpsoo's estate. Again, the de-

fence suggests it was planted. Los Angeles sheriff's deputies raided the home of Brenda Moran, a juror from the criminal trial, after Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki ordered an investigation into possible jury tampering. Ms Moran had signed a letter sent to two civil jurors recommending the services of a publicity agent. The letter, signed also by a second juror, said in effect: "We respect your verdict and look forward to meeting you ... if you need someone to talk to, don't hesitate to call us," her attorney said. It was supposed to be sent after the trial, Ms Moran claimed.

Loathing for former colonial master casts 50-year shadows between Korea and Japan

Richard Lloyd Parry Chonan, South Korea

The Independence Hall of South Korea, at the foot of a beautiful hill outside the city of Chonan, is like something out of early science fiction. The great signboard near the coach park lists its many attractions: scattered around the broad central plaza, punctuated by souring monuments and stones bearing inspirational inscriptions, are the Reunification Hill, the Stairs of the 105 Patriots, and the Grand Hall of the Nation, 12 080 square metres in area, 45m high and 1.26m wide.

Beneath its giant tiled roof is the Statue of Indomitable Koreans, an epic. swirling mass of muscular figures, energetically casting off chains and surging into the future. The atmos-phere is both nostalgic and futuristic - you half expect to come across Flash Gordon doing battle with Ming the Mcrciless. And the Independence Hall does indeed present itself as a battle of good against evil, an ancient struggle which even after five decades of peace refuses to be resolved.

"This is a national shrine please behave accordingly," warns the sign, and there certainly is a near-religious atmosphere about the hall, especially on a clear, hitterly cold winter morning, with the monuments casting loog shadows over the icy paths. But this is a complicated cult, based not so much upon pride in national achievements, as on mistrust, self-righteous contempt and frank loathing for Japan, Korea's near neighbour and former colonial master.

The heart of the Indepenleries, covering Korean history



Lasting bitterness: Korean former 'comfort women' in Tokyo on 15 August 1995, 50 years after the end of the war, demanding compensation from the Japanese government Photograph: AP

post-war independence, Among the exhibits are thousands of photographs, documents and everyday objects, displayed beneath long panels of explanatory text. The collection was begun in

from the late 19th century to 1945, and is now supported by a research department of archivists and historians. But the documentary value of their work is eclipsed throughout by a relentless chanvinism, bordering on

CHECKOUT

Enlarged photographs show the severed heads of peasants killed by the hated coloniser. In an animated film, the beautiful tear-streaked face of a 19th-century Korean queen is intercut with those of her snarling

Japanese assassins. The most extraordinary exhibit is a wide display case containing wax work scenes from the torture chambers of the Japanese colonial police. Uniformed interrogators interfere with a naked, bleeding girl; a pair of policemen smirk at an old man, bent double in a box lined with spikes.

Two and a half million visitors come here every year and among them today is a boy, Lim Jim Mook, being shown round the exhibition by his parents. "The Japanese are bad," he tells his father. "When I grow up, I want to bosh them." He is 10 years old. Around his neck hangs an expensive Japanese and Japanese.

Why do Korea and Japan, so close in culture and ethnogra-phy, and with so much to gain from friendly relations, still find it impossible to get on? adopt Japanese names and lan- official visit to Japan by Presi- xenopbobia.

Their businessmen manage it (two-way trade amounted to \$45.5bn last year), and so do their students (there are 15,000 Koreans studying in Japan). But official relations remain hopelessly snarled in a web of prejudice, propaganda and historical resentment.

The Independence Hall may be one sided (it makes no mention, for instance, of the millions of Koreans who co-operated and profited from the occupation), but the atrocities dramatised bere are not invented. Japanese brutality in Korea began in 1592, when invading samurai carried away with them art treasures, the severed ears of dead enemies, and many of the finest craftsmen and artists. In the later years of the coloni-

guage in a brutal attempt to eradicate national identity. Until recently, the grim facts

of the period were skated over in Japanese schools - a generation of new textbooks, which make cautious reference to such matters, are regularly de-nounced by right-wing intellectuals and politicians, Among older Japanese, one frequently finds a polite xenophobia towards Koreans, an equivalent of the middle-class anti-Semitism of Edwardian England, coupled with a rejuctance to face the ugly truth about their parents'

colonisation of the peninsula. A fortnight ago, a former cab-inet minister, Takami Eto, curely compared Japan's act of remains a sad place, as well as a magnificent one; a shrine not merger of a town and a village. To price and achievement, but sation, Koreans were forced to Last week, the night before an to victimhood, self-bity

dent Kim Young Sam, Tokyo's chief government spokesman, Seiroku Kajiyama, caused an even bigger flap when he remarked of the "comfort women" - foreign slaves, most of them Korean, used as front-line prostitutes by the imperial army - that "many of them did it for the money". But if Japanese sentiment ex-

presses itself through historical amnesia, Korean feelings are rarely so subtle, and the Inde-pendence Halt is not the only example of government-spon-sored xenophobia. Japanese popular culture (including pop music, films and comics) is banned here, a state of affairs supported, according to official polls, by most Koreans. Gaffes, such as Mr Kajiyama's, routinely provoke ugly demonstrations-as Japan laid claim last year to a rocky islet controlled by Korea, its Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were burned in effigy in the streets of Seoul. When the two countries com-peted last year for the rights to host the 2002 World Cup, the rivalry between them became so intense that Fifa, football's world governing body, took the unprecedented decision to award the tournament jointly.

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Saga - call

Many Koreans, particularly those old enough to remember the colonial period, bave genuine reasons for suspicion of Tokyo, but the roots of anti-Japanese feeling are compli-cated and closely tied with the single most important influ-ence on politics in the peninsula: its enduring partition along Cold War lines. While the communist North was ruled by Kim Il Sung, a war hero and former resistance fighter, South Korea's defining post-war leader was Park Chun Hee, an officer of the

Japanese imperial army. In the North, collaborators with the Japanese were quickly purged, and their land con-fiscated; but the United States generals who took custody of the Sooth preserved much of the former colonial machinery and those Koreans who administered it. Shame at the complicity of its leaders, and the desire to be more patriotic than the North, explains shuch about the Independence Hall, But it

Lisbon road movie that made a star aged 93

Elizabeth Nash

Augusto Macedo came to Lisbon from a poor Portuguese village aged 12 to work in his uncle's bakery. After military service he fancied buying a car, so he borrowed some money and splashed out on the latest American import, an Oldsmobile Cabriolet, which he used as a taxi. It was 1928 and Macedo was 24.

Taxi Lisboa, a film recently released in Portugal, celebrates Macedo's world, focusing on his beloved car in which he ferries around a curious batch of oddballs - a Spanish circus per-former, an Italian pizza mogul; they might have been invented by Fellini hut are mostly real

It was filmed last year when Macedo was 93. In nearly 70 years, barely a day went by without Macedo at the wheel of his spectacular vehicle making stately progress through Lis-bon's steep winding streets and etegant squares, or bowling along the coast road to Estoril.

Macedo won the Best Actor award at Italy's Pescara film festival last November for a performance that follows no script and consists mostly of gentle quirky tales and encounters with friends on the road. Late last year he fell ill, and he died just before the première on 12 January – an unhappy coincidence that cynical commentators suggest could catapult the film to cult status.

He is remembered with amusement and affection. "He was a good man," reminisces Jesus Nunes, 61, a Lisbon taxidriver for a mere 30 years, whose Volkswagen is far more sagging and clapped-out than Macedo's splendid antique. "He liked to drive slowly and carefully, so we always had to wait for him, but he never had an accident ... How he suffered with the potholes!"

The film, by the German director Wolf Gaudlitz, offers an unashamedly romantic vision of Lisbon, to the annoyance of some local critics, one of whom sniffed that the director, following the example of Wim Wenders' sentimental Lisbon

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Maria, 61, says: "He swore that

never eat sardines without

bread like his family had to, and we never did." He would come

home, she says, with tales of

clients from all over Europe,

children and grandchildren of

For the moment, the car sits

his son and grandsons would

Story, was "wearing Lisbon on

Bruno Cabral da Silva, the young Portuguese producer, concedes that "Germans have a very romantic image of Lisbon. It's so completely different from Germany. For them it's exotic."

Only six Oldsmobile Cabrioformer clients, who had come tets were made in 1928, and only specially to Lisbon to see him. three came to Europe; to France, Italy and Portugal. Macedo's alone survives, with the original engine that has clocked up 2.5 million kilometres. The clutch was replaced some 20 years ago, and the canvas canopy 15 years ago after someone slashed it with a knife. Macedo henceforth never left the car unattended, preferring to eat at the wheel.

Augusto Macedo's burly son, Fernando, 65, an accountant, lives across the street from his father's old house in the Buraca suburb in Lisbon. He says his father cocooned himself in the car, his best friend, "He put the car first, ahead of his family. Every night he would clean it, look after it, spend hours in his garage. He did most of the maintenance himself, and if he had to take it to a mechanic, he'd stay with the car and not let it out of his sight."

Did Fernando ever drive it? He chuckies. "Only once, in 1962. He let me take it out of the garage, but I carried away the gates to the driveway as I reversed out. It was the only time he ever let anyone take the

Fernando's wife, Donha

family have no interest in keeping it now that its owner is gone. Tiago, 18, Macedo's great-grandson, admits he does not even know how to start it.

Stepping on to that wide ribbed running board gives a sense of occasion even before you squeeze behind the wheel. The suspension on the wooden chassis is pretty stiff, and the front seat spans a huilt-in toolbox containing ancient smoothed spanners, the starting handle, the jack and a notched wooden dipstick for measuring the petrol level. Doubling over the steering wheel, I had to stretch way under the bonnet for the brass-handled brake.

The chrome is buffed to a silky sheen, the dashboard studded with well-worn knobs, and the massive black wings support Fernando's weight without a tremor. General Motors is interested in buying the car for their museum, he says, and the Lisbon city authorities have agreed to name a street after his father. That, and the film, should keep his memory alive.



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1 Assessing

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Imre Karacs the partition of the pa School Kapenda Problem The power struggle within the German government was suspended for a few bours yesterday as Chancellor Helmut Kohl the president of the month and his ministers closed ranks in the face of an opposition challenge. But even as Mr Kohl was defending his record during an But it tayanga salama emergency parliamentary de-bate, factional battles inside

the ruling coalition raged on. The infighting is waged on many fronts by a bewildering array of protagonists, but there is no doubt about the prize. Mr Kohl's party senses that after 14 years at the top the old man is running out of steam, prompting amhitious men and women

to get their retaliation in first. Mud is being slung in all directions, employing newspapers allied with the different factions. The Kohl system has broken down," revealed an anonymous Christian Democrat bigwig to the Suddensche Zeitung.

. The "Kohl system", a form of paternalism in which opponents were paid off for the sake of party unity, relied on the assumption that the Chancellor always knew best. It worked for 14 years but functions no longer because he has lost the aura of invincibility. Though elections are not due for a year, he will be limping towards the home stretch for the rest of his tenure. having botched the two votewinning programmes that had

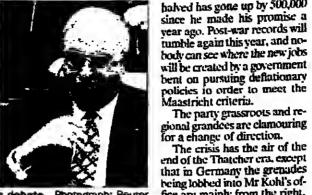


system, unveiled last month, is a disaster. A week later, the cab- fore 2030.



Rivals scent blood as 'Kohl system' fails

been destined to return him to inet gave birth to another power. The overhaul of the tax mouse: a pension reform which will not reform them much be-



At the same time, Mr Kohl's edge to have unemployment by 2000 bas turned into a joke.

The number that needs to be

radical overhaul. His Finance halved has gone up by 500,000 since he made his promise a Minister, Theo Waigel, read the party mood better, pointedly praising the employment record of Britain and the US. But Mr Waigel himself is under pressure from his right-

wing constituency in Bavaria to

ister. Mr Bhim voted against the

Finance Minister's tax reforms,

so the right torpedoed Mr

Blum's pension plans. Mean-

policies to order to meet the drift further in their direction. Maastricht criteria. while coming under attack from The party grassroots and rehis leftist cabinet colleague. gional grandees are clamouring Norbert Blum, the Labour Min-

for a change of direction. The crisis has the air of the end of the Thatcher era, except that in Germany the grenades being lobbed into Mr Kohl's office are mainly from the right. In vesterday's debate, the

year ago. Post-war records will

tumble again this year, and no-

body can see where the new jobs

while, the hard-right shut down the Waigel blueprint. Confused? -so is Chancellor Chancellar reiterated his aim of merely reforming the welfare state, seemingly oblivious to Kohl, who used to have a capable right-hand man in sort out calls from his own ranks for a

But his trusted aide and anointed successor, Waltgang Schäuble, does not appear to be pulling his weight any more.

This may have something to do with an interview at the beginning of the year, when Mr Schäuble broke a taboo by announcing his intention to suceeed his master.

"Can a cripple become Chancellor?" ran the question on the magazine's cover, below a picture of Mr Schäuble in a wheelchair. Germany's number two was paralysed from the waist down in an attack a few years ago. His answer in the question was an emphatic "ves", and since then bets on Helmut Kohl's record-breaking longevity are off.

CHAMPAGNE DAYS

It's the real thing: a few bottles of the finest from a family firm

Drive 40 minutes east of Disneyland and you come to the most famous vineyards on the planet. In winter, they look like vast and dreary cemeteries, like every other maker of chamany other vineyards. But these are not any old vineyards. This is Champagne, purveyor of ex-pensive bangovers to the world.

In the village of Chouilly, in the heart of the Côte des Blancs, home of the finest Grands Crus, Philippe Gué was waiting for us. He had been recfriend. After the sullen skies and faces of Paris, Mr Gué is a burst of sunshine. "Come and see the cellars. Have a little taste." But what about the children? "Oh

they must come too." We go to a corner of the of-fice floor which, at the pull of a lever, drops 10 feet into the darkness. Released abruptly from the car, the children bounce around the rows of Mr Gué's precious bottles, like a pair of elumsily removed champagne corks. Mr Gué thinks this is hilarious. Enfants will be en-

fants; they can do no harm. Mr Gue is a tall man in his forties who seems to stand permanently at an angle, perhaps from lifting crates of wine. He opens a bottle of unlabelled champagne and pours us a glass. This, he explains, is champagne in its nat-ural, pre-commercial state - the way the Champenois like to drink it. Before he sells it - like pagne - he will add a strictly pre-scribed quantity of case sugar and liqueur made from viotage champagne. It is the extent of this added ingredient which decides the sweetness of the wine: brut, sec. demi-sec.

Mr Gué and his father are among the smallest producers own just two and a half hectares less than seven acres – of appellation contrôlée Champagne vineyards. They are members of a disappearing breed - the small growers who also make, bottle and market all their own wine. Many small producers, Mr Gué explains, have chosen to throw in their lot with village co-operatives. Others find it more profitable to sell their grapes to the giant champagne houses such as Möet or Mumm or Veuve Cliquot, whose factorymansions line the road into Epernay, three miles away.

Why do he and his father insist stubbornly on making their own? Mr Gué simultaneously shrugs his shoulders and laughs Because it is more interesting. of course; there is no satisfac-



tion in glueing labels on bottles full of communal champagne. You will never find a bottle of Réne Gué wine in a shop; you will ocver see one on a restaurant wine list. Philippe and his father sell all their bottles to personal callers: people who drive from all over France to the prosperous, suburban-looking, pink-rendered house in Chouilly to stock up once or twice a year. The two busy periods, he explains, are just before Christmas and in May, the wedding season. At one level - the Moet lev-

el, not the Gué level - champagne is a big business which typifies the kind of luxury goods that have allowed French exports and trade surpluses to boom despite the fit of national pessimism, the high franc and the lingering recession in En-rope. About one-third of all ehampagne produced goes abroad (with Britain by far the biggest customer).

But France, despite its morose political and economic rnood, remains its own best customer for champagne. On

average, each man, woman, child and baby in France drinks 26 glasses a year: an impressive figure when you consider that nearly half of all French adults - contrary to the received wisdom - never drink wine of any kind. The big champagne houses have nothing like the same domination of this domestic market. Almost half the champagne sold in France comes from the smaller growerproducers and co-operatives.

Mr Gué is more interested in

ehampagne than champagne

in the drive to boost production and, therefore, exports, too many new vineyards on the periphery of the region have been given appellation controllée status. Champagne production has nearly tripled in the last 25 years, leading to doubts about quality of some of the wine produced. The expansion has been halted now, which is all to the good, Mr Gue says.

politics but he complains that,

Here endeth the lesson: champagne is a little microcosm of France as it moves uncertainly

into the 21st century: partly a modern and very successful trading state; partly a country which clings stubbornly to its own ways of doing things but wonders how long it can do so.

How do we like his raw champagne? It is a little "rude". is it not? Rude meaning not cheeky hut rough. Well, yes, actually, it is a little rude; but we are assured by Mr Gue that the final product is more like what the non-local palate is used to and very fine indeed.

We wish to buy a modest

have a reputation in small vineyards in France for always calling in the middle of lunch and buying only one bottle. We buy a few more than that. The price is Fr65 (£7) a bottle - less than half the price of a good champagne in London, but also half the price of a good bottle in

amount for a party to say

farewell to a colleague. You

must not feel you have to buy,

says Mr Gue. British callers

John Lichfield

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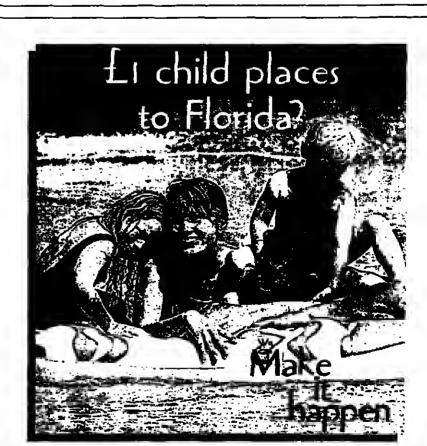


Highs and lows: Damon Albarn, lead singer with Blur, talks to Ben Thompson

Plus:

Cillian Slovo on life with her father, legendary anti-apartheid campaigner Joe Slovo; Why today's women prefer cats to husbands; Part two of the 100 best paintings in Britain; and Chris Rea and Stan Hey report from the Calcutta Cup

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Paris tightens grip on Corsica warlords

Mary Dejevsky

The Paris government may be hedging its bets oo the upsurge of fighting in Zaire and keeping so embarrassed silence oo the daily killings in Algeria, but it is finally addressing a problem of violence closer to home that has festered for the past 20 years. In a sharp change of policy that has gone unannounced and unremarked. Paris has started to lay down the law in the rebellious

island of Corsica. The turning point came last mooth, when police arrested a lawyer by the name of Marie-Hélène Mattei at Bastia airport in northern Corsica. Since then, all but one of the leaders of A Cuncolta Naziunalista, the po-litical wing of the island's main separatist movement, the Front for the National Liberation of Corsica (FLNC), have been detained.

François Saotoni, the national secretary of A Cuncolta, turned himself in within 48 bours of Ms Mattei's arrest she is his girlfriend and, in the quasi-feudal code of Corsican nationalism, he presented his surrender as a matter of honour. Jean-Michel Rossi, the editor of Cuncolta's magazine, was captured sooo afterwards.

Along with Ms Mattei, they were transferred to Paris and charged with extortion and other offences. A dozen or so more-junior activists have also

ports of police raids oo the homes of presumed nationalists have taken over from reports of small-scale bombings and straf-ings as the staple of daily news

After a mooth of moving slowly but systematically, the authorities in Paris exude quiet satisfaction: A Cuncolta Naziunalista has been effectively beheaded and, against all predictions, there has been no bloodbath and no general strike oo the island. Attacks on the mainland have become fewer and further between.

The only A Couculta leader still at large is Charles Pieri, secretary for upper Corsica, but he may be less of a threat than his



Blast of rage: A policeman checking damage after Thursday's second Corpless bomb attack in 24 hours in Nice, France

awesome reputation suggests. He was badly injured in a carbomb attack last summer and his capacity to lead the movement cannot he takeo for granted.

Mattei's arrest was just a lucky break for the authorities or whether - as is claimed on her behalf-she and Mr Santoni were "set up" in an elaborate operatioo masterminded from Paris.

which she and Mr Santoni are charged concerns the destruction of the guardhouse at the Sperone resort and golf club in southern Corsica. The house

The specific offence with hich she and Mr Santoni are gang on 12 December after the resort's owner, a Parisbased husinessmen named Jacques Dewez, refused to comply with a demand for protection money and - in an act almost unheard of in Corsica -

went to the police.

Planned or not, the stand of Mr Dewez was a godsend for the authorities. Not only did it give them the lead to Ms Mattei and Mr Santoni, it also allowed them to present A Cuncolta as a band of common or garden gangsters, thus stripping it of its political mythology.

Opponents of the nationalists

in Consica have long accused the authorities in Paris of making secret deals with the nationalists for the sake of an uneasy peace. That excuse for a policy now seems to have been abandoned. "I believe that we have at last

left ambiguity behind," the French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, szid recently on television. A crackdown in Corsica bad

been signalled ever since Jacques Chirac became president and Mr Juppe prime minister. Both insisted that it was unacceptable for there to be one law for mainland France and apother for Corsica, given that Corsica is constitutionally a

ever, such statements schmes like wishful thinking or even deliberate disinformation. Just how remote they were from the truth was revealed last October. when François Santoni claimed that he had had secret talks with members of Mr Juppe's staff and that Mr Juppe's office hadset the terms for an armed. show of strength by the nationalists the previous Pebruary - charges that were not denied.

The reasons for the policy change remain unclear. Did the bomb in October at the town half in Bordeaux - where Mr Juppé is mayor - and the personal threats against him cause the Prime Minister to change his mind? Was it simply that the pub-lic mood on Corsica was judged to have turned against the nationalists and so offered an opportunity for change?

Whatever the reasons, the government's words and deeds now seem to be in kilter for the first time. With several former untouchables in prison on the mainland, the authorities have a freer hand to tackle Corsica's desperate economic problems. Measures to establish Corsica as a partially tax-free zone and inject new agricultural subsidies are in train as Paris tries to seize back the initiative from the island's entrenched, but invisi-

For more than a year, how- ble warlords

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Rebels say Zaire attack has been blunted

Zaire's mercenary-backed army had run into stiff " resistance in its attempt to recapture towns and territory from rebels in the east, it was claimed. The rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, said in a radio interview broadcast from Goma, eastern Zaire, that his forces had blocked the counter-offensive and "wiped it out ... We control the territory ... In the last two days there have been no more battles. We have discovered that the enemy has retreated considerably doe to the losses." Earlier, sources reported Zairean troops fighting on several fronts, with rebels heading towards Shaba province. Reuter - Kinimasa

Cyprus offers deal on missiles

The Cypriot President, Glascos Clerides, offered to resided plans to buy Russian anti-aircraft missiles if Ankan agreed a deal on the future of the island, "Of con don't want to waste the money," he said at a news conference. The Cypriot government's decision by the missiles heightened tensions between Grock and furkish Cypriot communities and between Athens and Ankara. Turkey has threatened to take whatever action is needed to block deployment.

Chechen victor talks peace

Asian Maskhadov's victory in Chechen presideotial elections on Sunday, followed by soothing words that oil would be able to move safely across his country, were welcomed by analysts and energy executives, who said the new president of independence-minded Chechnya had a realistic chance of stabilising the war-torn region, removing a major political risk to Caspian Sea oil projects.

Horses left to starve to death

About 50 horses died of starvation at a farm in Latvia and a campaign is under way to save 29 others found so emaciated they were unable to walk. The owner was charged with cruelty to animals and faces to two years hip prison if convicted. Investigators, concerned by word of conditions at the farm, found horse corpses strewn across the yard and in stables. The surviving animals were so weak they had to be carried outside.

Liberia militias loath to disarm

Liberia's militiamen, who have held the nation hostage during seven years of civil war, joined a last-minute rush to disarm in time for yesterday's deadline ahead of elections in May. But it looked doubtful that all would hand in their weapons on time. With estimates of the number of fighters ranging up to 60,000, only about 16,000 have disarmed by Thursday. Reuter - Monrovis

Peru move to end siege crisis

The Peruvian President, Alberto Fujimori, left for a summit in Canada with the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, to plot an end to the 45-day hostage crisis, aware the stand-off with Marxist rebels could last months. The government negotiator, Domingo Palermo, Interior Minister, Juan Briones Davila, and several MPs, accompanied Mr Fujimori.

German pigs told to trot off

Belgium said will ban all imports of pigs from Germany over fears of swine fever. The han will start today. The Agriculture Minister, Karel Pinxten, said deliveries from any part of Germany represented an unacceptable health risk to Belgian animals. Belgium imports 50,000 young pigs from Germany every month.

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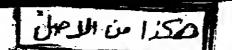


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Spectre of beggary looms over Bulgaria

Wages have halved in value since the start of the year. The lev, the national currency, is falling by the hour. Even sausages are too expensive for some shoppers.

worst economic crisis since its Communist edifice began to crack in 1989. President Petar Stoyanov, newly installed in office, told European Union leaders last Wednesday that Bulgaria was in danger of defaultiog on its \$10bn

(£6.25bn) foreign debt. The Bulgarian National Bank admitted last week it lacked the resources to control the crisis.

The BNB alone will not be able to contain further depreciation of the currency, galloping inflation and deepening desta-bilisation of the financial system," a statement said.

There is almost no money left for importing fuel and grain. The International Monetary Fund is withholding a \$115m credit because in says Bulgaria's Socialist (ex-Communist) gov-ernment has failed to introduce meaningful economic reforms.

Actually, it is hard to say whether Bulgaria has a government or not. Zhan Zidenov, Prime Minister since 1994, was

As the lev sinks, people are desperate bore much of the blame. However, he pointed out that Bulto convert savings into dollars, marks, or table lamps, writes Tony Barber

Bulgaria is languishing in its cemher after Mr Stoyanov scored a decisive presidential election victory over one of Mr Zidenov's Socialist colleagues.

Then mass street protests hroke out against the Socialists in early January as students, workers and opposition politi-cians demanded fresh parliamentary elections. Thousands of miners and public sector workers were on strike yesterday, and demonstrators closed the main road to the border with Greece for the third day. Since the Socialists are still

the largest party in parliament, Mr Stoyanov asked the Socialist Interior Minister, Nikolai Dobrev, to form a government. However, sensing the depth of public hostility to his party, Mr Dohrev has been in no hurry to carry out his task. He mused yesterday that the best solution might be a coalition government that included the anti-Socialist opposition.

Meanwhile, the crisis gathers pace. Monthly inflation in January is thought to have hit forced out of office last De- 50 per cent. Annual inflation in

garia had suffered from the international sanctions imposed on Iraq and former Yugoslavia. which used to be two of Bul-1997 is predicted to reach 3,600 garia's closest trading partners.

The lev, which stood at 70 to

the dollar one year ago and 495

1,900. Its collapse has gutted

thousands of people's savings.

better than a wad of leva.

Long queues have formed

"I will be unfair to my fellowcountrymen if I pass over in silence their justified disappointat the start of this year, was ment, when the sacrifice Bulquoted on Bulgaria's interbank garia made in the years of sanctions against former Yugoslavia remained on the sidelines of market yesterday at 1,730 to world attention," he said. He estimated Bulgaria's total losses outside banks in Sofia as peofrom the sanctions at \$6.5bn. Aid agencies in Britain and abroad warned yesterday that ple withdraw their deposits. They hope to convert them Bulgaria faces a humanitarian crisis as bad, or even worse, than

into dollars or German marks before all is lost. So worthless is the lev that some Bulgarians the one that ravaged Romania five years ago, Michael Hanlon are investing their money in writes. The Christian Children's Fund, a London-based charity, cheap electrical appliances. A table lamp may hold its value has launched an appeal, claim-Mr Stoyanov, visiting Brussels this week, said the Socialists ing that 30,000 Bulgarian chil-



miners demanding an 800-per cent wage rise at a rally in Sofia

Photograph: AP

Milosevic 'set to surrender the capital'

Emma Daly Belgrade

Serbia's embattled government hinted it may accept opposition electoral victories in the hope of curbing discontent with Socialist rule which has sparked 73 days of street protests and paralysed the economy. Dissent in Serbia is spreading, as different groups seize the mo-ment to voice their demands.

Yesterday about 300 lawyers took tu the streets to mark the start of the barristers' strike called in support of the democracy demonstrators, while huodreds of striking schoolteachers met in the capital to demand

payment from the state.

"All the barristers here are real individuals – it's very hard to unite them in any way,"

they're giving up, 1 don 1 x x x x y other way to interpret what Lilic said, "said Bratislav Grubacie, an independent analyst. to unite them in any way," Miroljub Belle said, as he marched beside his professional rivals. "It's a real sign of how hadly something needs to

change in our system. As the column of respectable citizenry - furs de rigeur for the women, homburgs optional for men - marched up a hill in eentral Belgrade, they bumped

into the daily student rally.

The colourful youth wing welcomed their elders with cheers, which the lawyers ac-

cepted with dignified smiles. Rumours are rife in Bel-grade that President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia is preparing to hite the hullet and allow Zajedno (Together), the opposition coalition, to take control of Belgrade city hall. There were reports last night that Mr Milosevic had sacked the head of Serbian television, which has heen a target of opposition anger since the rallies began.

On Thursday night, Zoran Lilie, the President of Yugoslavia, the mouthpiece of Mr Milosevic, announced oo state television that "the results of the elections should be recognised ... everywhere the opposition

woo by the will of the people". However, while he meotioned a report by the Organi-sation for Co-Operation and Security in Europe, which loog ago said the opposition should take cootrol of the 14 towns it won in elections on 17 November, Mr Lilic referred vaguely

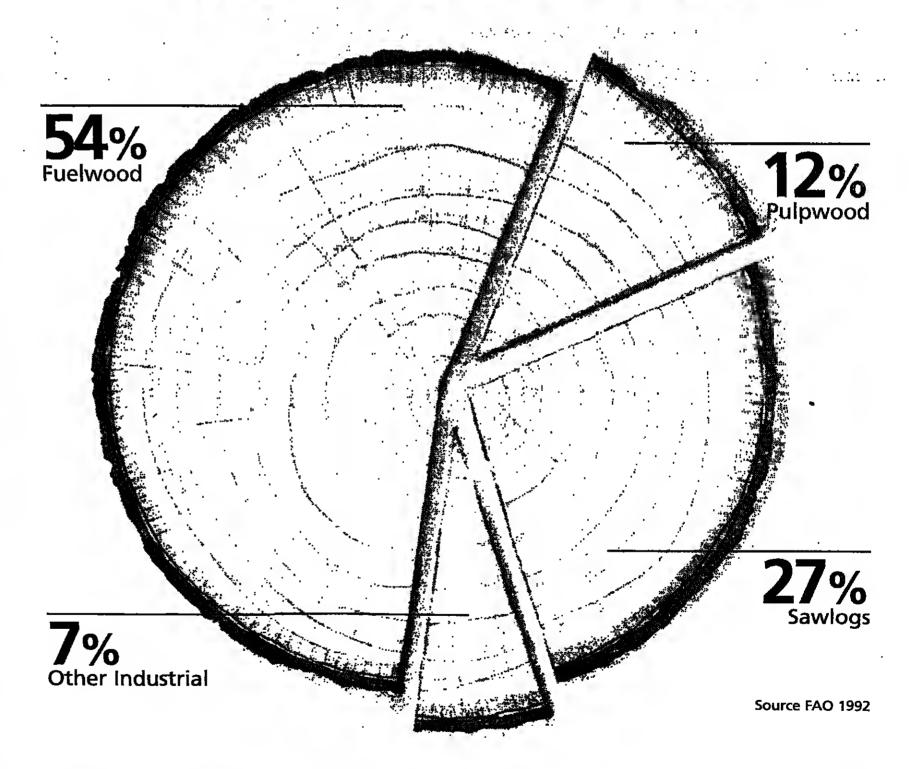
to "some other solution". Locals reading the runes were sure that this time the government is beaten. "It means

One Western diplomat was told by officials change would come "very soon", hut noted that a similar note of optimism was struck a couple of weeks ago with no result. Still, he be-lieved that "there have been enough voices off-stage" to ex-

pect a solution to the crisis. The students who march dai ly through the streets in their thousands, and the citizens who gather every night in support of Zajedno, hlowing whistles and banging pots and pans in disgust at the regime, will not easily be bought off.

For all that the government mutters about compromise, it is clear there can be no shirking over the first step; recognition of Zajedno's electoral victory Beyond that, the Socialists will probably try to set up negodations on a wider political agenda in the hope of limiting the opposition's gains.

Vere good



Alabama's jail shackle shame

David Usborne New York

The Alahama prison system, headlines with the reintroduction of chain gangs, is now under attack for shackling in-mates to horizontal metal hars known as "hitching posts". Ruling on a lawsuit brought

against the state by a prisoners' rights organisation, a federal magistrate judge this week assailed the system and said the apparently harbarie practice should no longer be permitted. Typically lucated uut-of-

doors, the posts consist of a shoulder-high horizontal metal bar with eye-rings to which the wrists of inmates are attached by manacles. Witnesses testified that men would sometimes he left standing for hours in searing heat, unable to sit down or use the toilet.

They had me chained, hitched up to the hitching rail like I was a dog," one inmate. Michale Askew testified. Another. Tone Foundain, told the a ruling by a federal judge.

court of a day he was attached to rail when he was taking laxatives. He soon soiled himself but was left on the rail for several more hours while other prisoners mocked him.

Prison officials contended that the posts provided o useful means to control inmates who violated prisoo rules.

But in a scaring ruling, Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson said: "Short of death by electrocution, the hitching post may be the most painful and tortuous punishment administered by the Alabama prison system. With deliberate indifference to the health, safety and indeed the lives of inmates, prison officials have knowingly subjected them to all of the hazards of the hitching posts, then observed as they suffered pain, humiliation and injuries as a result".

Brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the lawsuit also sought the suspension of the chain gangs.

The future of hitching posts will now go to a higher court for

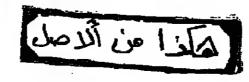
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THE INDEPENDENT CALENDAR OF

JANUARY

- Cricket England v Zimbabwe, second one-day internadonal, Harare; England Under-19 v Combined XI, one-day game, Lahore
- Smooker Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge (to 5 Jan)
- Criciost England v Zimbabwe, third one-day international, Harare; Eogland Under-19 v Pakistan Under-19, first one-day interna-Skiling Womeo's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Maribor, Slovenia Speed Skating British Short
- Football FA Cup third round Rugby union Ireland v Italy, Dublin; European Cup semi-final: Leicester v Toulouse, France **Athletics** Belfast cross Colf World Championship of Golf. Scottsdale, Arizona

Guildford (to 4)

- Rugby union European Cup semi-tinal: Brive, France v Criciost England Under-19v Pakistan Under-19, second one-day international, Sialkot Skiling Men's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Kranjska Gora, Sloven (to 6)
- Tennis Sydney International. Men: BellSouth Open. Auckland, Women: Tas Hobart (all events to 11)
- Football Coca-Cola Cup fifth round Cricicat England Under-19 v Pakistan Under-19, third one-day international.
- 10 Cricket England v NZ Academy XI occ description emy XI, one-day game, New Plymouth
- Horse racing Victor Chandler Chase, Ascot Skilns Alpine World Cup: Men (downhill, slatom, combined), Chamonix France: Women (downhill. super-gj. Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria (to 12) Speed Skating World Junior Short Track Championships,
- 19 Cyclocross British Championships, Sutton Park, Birmingham (to 9) Athletics Amorbica crosscountry meeting, Spain

Michlgan (to 12)

- 13 Tenois Australian Open. Meibourne (to 26) Cricket England v NZC Selection XJ, Palmerston North Ito I6)
- 14 Skiling Men's Alpine World Cup (giant stalom), Adelbo
- 17 Athletics IAAF Indoor permit meeting Meets Speed skating European Short Track Championships, Malmo | to 18|
- 18 Rugby union Five Nations' Championship. Scotland v Wales, Murrayfield: Ireland v France Duhlin Cricket England v Northern Districts, Hamilton [to 21) Rallying Monte Carlo Rai-Skling Alpine World Cup: Men (downhill staken) Wen. gen. Switzerland; Women giant slalom). Zwiesel, Germany (to 19)
- 19 Figure skating European Championships, Paris (tn 27) Salting UK Admiral's Cup team at Key West (to 26) Athletics Seville cars-
- 20 Football Fifa World Player of the Year 1994 of the Year 1996 announced
- 23 Gotf Johnnie Walker Classic, Hope Island, Queensland. Australia (to 26) Athletics St Petersburg
- 24 Cricket England v New Zealand, first Test, Auckland 110 28 t Skiling Alpine World Cup
 - combined), Kitzbuhel, Aus tria: Women (downhill, gian slalom, super-g). Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy (to 26)

- nology Regal Weish Open, Newport (to 1 Feb)
- 25 Football FA Cup fourth round Rugby union Hemeken European Cup Final, venue tha Athletics AAA Indoor Championships,
- 26 American Football Super Bowl XXXI, Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
- Tennis Men: Croatian In-Z door tournament, Zagreb; nghai Open. Wamen: Pan-Pacific Open, Tokyo (all to 2 Feb)
- 29 Skiling Men's Alpine World Cup (super-giant slalom). Laax Switzerland
- 30 Crickest England v New Zca-land A., Wanganui (to 2 Feb) Golf Heincken Classic, The Vines, Perth. Australia 1to 2 Feb Skiling Men's Alpine World Cup (night slalom), Schlading, Austria

FEBRUARY

- Rugby union Five Nations Championship, England v Scotland, Twickenham, Wales v Ireland, Cardiff Athletics LAAF induor meeting, Budapest; Tourcoing cross-country, France Cyclocross World Cham-piouships, Munich (to 2) Skilng Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, slalom, combined), Laax, Switzerland
- Skiing Alpine World Chamrips. Sestriere (to 16) mis Women: LTA satel lite, Sunderland (to 8) Snocker Benson & Hedges Masters, Wembley (to 9 Feb) Athletics Indoor meeting.
 - Tennis Women: Austrian Open, Linz Men: LTA indoor satellite, Bramhall, Gur Manchester (both to 9) Salling Australia Cup, Perth
- Speed skating International short track competition, Guildford (to 5)
- Athletics LAAF indoor
- Cricket England v New Zealand, Second Test. Wellington (to 10) Golf South African Open, tba (to 91
- Tennis Davis Cup, World Group, first round (to 9) Hockey Men's indoor club finals, Crystal Palace Railying Swedish Interna-tional Rally, Karlstad (to I0) Athletics LAAF indoor meeting, New York
- Athletics IAAF indoor meeting. Macbashi, Japan; indoor meeting, Moscow
- Tennis Women: LTA satellite, Billesley, Birmingham (to 15) **Athletics** Almond Blossom cross-country, Albufeira, Por tugal: Dierkirch crosscountry, Luxembourg
- 10 Tennis Men: Dubai open; Marseilles Open; LTA insex. Women: Open Gaz de France, Paris (all events to I6) Sailing Vendee Globe due to finish, Les Sables d'Olonne.
- 12 Football England v Italy, World Cup qualifying Group Two, Wembley Athletics Indoor meeting.
- 13 Golf Dimension Data, Sur City, South Africa (to 16) Golf Dimension Data, Sun Snooker International Open, Aberdeen [10.23 Feb)
- 14 Cricket England v New Zealand, Third Test, Christchurch (to 181 Athletics IAAF indoor meeting, Karlsruhe
- 15 Football FA Cup fifth round Rugby union Five Nations Championship, France v Wales, Paris: Ireland v Eng-Lind Dublin Athletics Indoor meeting,
- Tennis Women: LTA satel-16 line, Redbridge (to 22) Athletics IAAF indoor meeting, Lievin

- Tennis Men: European Community Championships, Antwerp: Kroger St Jude tournament, Memohis: LTA
- satellite, Eastbourne. Women: Faber Grand Prix, Hanover: IGA Classic, Oklahoma City (all events to 23)
- 18 Athletics IAAF indoor meeting, Moscow
- 19 Football Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, first leg
- 20 Cricket England v New Zealand, first one-day international, Christchurch Goff Alfred Dunhill South African PGA championship, Houghton, Johannesburg Athletics LAAF indoor meeting, Stockholm: IAAF
- Grand Prix Two event, 22 Horse racing Greenalls Gold Cup, Haydock Skiing Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super-g), Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany (to 23)
- Rhythmic Gymnastics British Championships, Milton Keynes (to23) teletics LAAF indoor meeting, Athens 23 Cricket England v New Zcaland, second one-day international Auckland



Football Coca-Cola Cup

aux Expectations will be

- Athletics LAAF/Ricoh indoor tour final, Birmingham
- 24 Teamis Men: Advanta Championships, Philadelphia; Italian Indoor Championships, Milan (both to 2 Mar); LTA indoor satellite masters, Croydon (to 28), Women; Fed
- 26 Cricket England v New Zealand, third one-day international, Napler Salling SORC, Cmacs and Mumm 36s, Miami
- Golf Dubai Desert Classic, Emirates Club, Dubai no 2 Mari
- 28 Rallying Safari Rally, Nairo-hi (to 3 Mar) Skiing Women's Alpine World Cup (two downhills), Nagano, Japan (to 1 March) Athleties US indoor championships, Atlanta (to I Mar); First European Veterans

MARCH

- Cricket England v New Zealand, fourth one-day in-ternational, Auckland Rugby union Five Nations ampionship, Scotland Ireland, Murrayfield; Eng-land v France, Twickenham Skiling Men's Alpine Work Cup (downhill, super-g), Kvit-fjell, Norway (to 2) Athletics Great Britain Russia, indoor meeting, Glasgow; indoor meeting, Sindelfingen
- Cycle speedway Wor Cup. Finden, Australia edway World
- Men: ABN/AMRO World Tennis Tournament Rotterdam; Franklin Tem Ariz |both to 9 Mar). omen: Evert Cup, Indian Wells, Cal Ito 151 Hockey Men's World Cup qualifier, Kuala Lumpur
- Cricket England v New Zealand, fifth one-day international, Wellington
- Football European elub competitions, quarter finals, first leg Hockey Women's School Championship, Miltan Keynes (to 6)

Cup (slalom, giant statom),

- Shigakogen, Japan (to 9)
- Golf Moroccan Open (to 9) Skiing Women's Alpine World Cup (statom, super-g). Mammoth Mounta California (to 7)
- Athletics World Indoor Championships, Paris Bercy (to 9); High jump meeting, Wappertal; NCAA Indoor Championships, Indianapolis (to 8)
- Football FA Cup, sixth round Ō Horse racing imperial Cup, howing Women's Head of the river
- 9 country dividual Championships, Salisbury, Australia
- Open (both to 16) Salling Congression Long Beach (to 17)
- 12 Football Coca-Cola Cup, Skiling Alpine World Cup Fi-Colorado (to 16)
- 13 Golf Portuguese Open (to 16)
- pionship (to 15)
- 15 Rughy union Five Nations' Championship, Wales v England, Cardiff; France v Scotland, Paris Rughy league Stones Super League starts Motor recing Global
- 16 Football Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final, second leg Figure skating . World Championships, Lausanne (to 23) lockey Men's Golden Ju-

(to [6]

- Tennis Lipton Championships Key Biscayne (to 29), Men: St Petersburg Open (to 23) thletics IAAF Grand Prix
- 10 Football European club J competitions, quarter finals,

- 22 Horse racing Lincoln Hand-icap, Doncaster Rowing Head of the River Figuera da Foz (to 27)
- try championships, Turin
- 24 Tennis Men: Grand Prix Hassan II, Casablanca (to 30)
- 27 Gotf Madeira Island Open (to 30) noten British Open, Plymouth [to 6 April)
- Hockey European Cup-Winners' Cup tournament Reading (to 31)
- v Belgium, World Cup qual ifying Group Seven, Cardiff, Nurthern Ireland v Portugal, Speed skating World Short Track Chame Nagano, Japan (to 30)
- Grand Prix, Interlagos, Skiing Men's Alpine World São Paulo

- National, Fairyhouse Head Island, SC (to 6)
- Motor racing Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne Athletics San Vittore cross Cycle speedway World In-
- 1 A Tennis Men: Newsweck Champions Cup, Indian icer Thailand Open (to
- Horse racing Cheltenhan 11 Gold Cup meeting (to 13)
- nals (downhill, slalom, giant slalom, super-g), Vail,
- 14 Rallying Weish Rally, Mobil 1/Top Gear British Cham-
- durance GT race, Monza
- bilee Six Nations Tournament, Karachi (to 23)
- Two event, Johannesburg
- 18 Snooker Benson & Hedges Irish Masters, Goffs (to 23)
- 20 Golf Turespaña Masters (to 23)
- 71 Rugby union World Cup ns, Hong Kong (to 23
- Rallying Portuguese Rally, Cycling World Cup, Milan to
- 23 Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Donington Athletics World cross-coun-Motorcycling Superbike event, Phillip Island, Australia
- 28 Salling Rolex Cup, St Thomas, France (to 30)
- 29 Football Scotland v Estonia, World Cup qualifying Group Four, Hampden Park, Wales World Cup qualifying Group Nine, Windsor Park
- Motor racing Brazilian

31 Noter racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Donington Horse rucing Irish Grand ands Women: Family Cir-

APRIL

- qualifying Group Nine
- Tounis Men: Davis Cup, World Group, second round; Euro-African Zone, Group 1, Great Britain v Ukraine or Zimbabwe, British venue tha (to 6)
- Rowling Vesta Scullers Head of the River Football Coca-Cola Cup Final
- Cycling World Cup, Tour of Flanders ols Women: Hausch & Lomb Championshins
- Hong Kong (all events to 13)
- Attieties IAAF permit meeting, Cape Town Football European dub

- 13 Football FA Cup, semi-final Athletics London Marathon Motor racing Argentinian Grand Prix, Buenos Aires; British Formula 3 Championship, Thruston Motorcycling Malaysian Grand Pric Shah Allam, Le Mars 24 hour Endurance race
- Younds Japan Open, Tokyo. men: Seat-Godo Open,
- Barcelona (both to 20) Horse racing Craven meeting, Newmarket (to 17)
- 18 Hockey Womeo's inter league play-offs, Milton Keynes (to 20)
- 19 Rugby union County Cham-pionship Final, Twickenham Horse racing Scottish Grand National, Avr. Motor racing Global Endurance GT race, Magny-Cours, France (to 20) Salling Hyères week, France (to 26) Spooker Embassy World

Championship, Sheffield (to

- 5 May) 20 Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Silverstone Tennis LTA spring satellite, venue tha (to 27) Cycling World Cup, Liège-Bastogne-Liège Motorcycling Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka; Super-
- oike event, Misano Touris Men: US Clay Court Championships, Orlando; Monte Carlo Open. Women: Dammon Open 97, Jakarta; Budapest Lotto Open, (all events to 27)
- Football European club competition, semi-finals, 24 Gotf Peugeot Spanish Open; West of England Stroke Play Championship, Royal North
- Devon (both to 27) 26 Horse racing Whitbread Gold Cup, Sandown Cycling World Cup, Amstel Gold, Netherlands

ow Zestand v England First Test

ATRETICS

---- CRICKET

mean & Hedges Cup final

CYCLING

Rallying Pirelli International Rally, Mobil 1/Top Geat British Championship (to 27)

26 Hockey Men's Inter League Play-offs, Milton Keynes

27 Motor racing San Marino Grand Prix, Imola; British Formula 3 Championship,

venue tha (to 4 May)

28 Termis Men: BMW Open Munich; Skoda Czech Open

events to 4 May)

30 Football England v Georgia, World Cup qualifying Group Two, Wembley; Sweden v Scotland, World Cup quali-

fying Group Four; Ro

Republic of Ireland, World

Cup qualifying Group Eight, Armenia v Northern Ire-

land, World Cup qualifying Group Nine
Group Nine
Volvo World

Cup Final, Gothenburg

MAY

Golf Conte of Florence

Horse racing 2,000 Guineas.

Rugby league Silk Cut Chal-

Football Nationwide

Golf Lytham Trophy, Royal

Lytham & St Annes (to 4)

Pelo Innerwick Challenge

Sports Acrobatics British Championships, Manchester

lenge Cup final, Wembley

League, final matches

Cup, Ascot (to 5)

Italian Open (to 4)

Newmarket

(to 4 May)

Prague; AT&T Challenge, Atlanta, Georgia. Women:

Rexona Open, Hamburg; Croatian Open, Bol (all

is LTA spring satellite.

Brand Hatch

latWest Trophy final

ur de France

(to 28)

Christchurch, 14-18 Jan

Edgbaston, 5-9 June

Old Trafford, 3-8 July

Second Test

Third Test

First Test

Third Test

Fifth Test

Sixth Test

Second Test

Fourth-Test

- Football Scotland v Aus. tria, World Cup qualifying Group Four, Hampden Park; Macedonia v Republic of Ireland. World Cup qualify ing Group Eight, Ukraine v Northern Ireland, World Cup
- Horse racing Grand Na-tional meeting, Aintree (to 5)
- Golf Central England Open Men's Foursomes, Woodhall
- Spa(to 6) Motor racing Global Endurance GT race, Estoril, Portugal (to 6) sties Great Britain Russia, women's international (to 6)
- Motor racing British For-mula 3 Championship, Sil-
- Amelia Island, Fla. Men: Estoril Open; Salem Open,
- competitions, semi-final,
- 10 Goff US Masters, Augusta, Georgia (to 13)
- 12 Cycling World Cup, Paris to Roubaix
- Rallying Spanish Rally, Lioret de Mar (to 16)
 - Velodrome (to 4) Horse racing 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket
 - Rallying French Rally and Tour of Corsica, Ajaccio (to 8) unis LTA spring satellite, Lee-on-Solent (to 11) Athletics Grand Prix meeting. Rio de Janeiro
 - Motorcycling Spanish bike event, Donington Park Tomas Women: Italian Open Rome; Fed Cup, Europe-Africa, Group 2, Antalya, Turkey, Men: German Open,
 - Clay Championship, Cora Springs (all events to 11) Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Thruxton

Hamburg, America's Red

- Football Ucfa Cup Final, first leg Golf Benson and Hedges International Open, The Oxfordshire, Thame (to 11); Women's Estoril Open, Portugal (to 11)
- Three-day Event (to 11) Gyamastics British Cham pionships, Guildford (to 11) No Prince of Wales Trophy.
- Rugby union Pilkington Cup Final, Twickenham; Welsh Cup Final, Cardiff, Scottisb Cup Final, Murrayfield Motor racing Global Endurance GT race, Silverstone (to 11) Manga (to 11)
 Football FA Premier Legue,
- Athletics Grand Prix event. Osaka, Japan Motor racing Manaeo

Grand Prix

THE YEAR'S 13 April Coca-Cola Cap final Uefa Cup final ropeen Cap-Winners' Cap final FA Cup final Auckland, 24-28 Ian Scottish Cup final

Wellington, 6-10 Feb European Cup final 28 M Augusta, 10-13 Ar US Masters Bethesda, Maryland, 12-15 Jur IIS Open The Open Royal Troon, 17-20-J Winged Foot, N US POA CA

Lord's, 19-23 June 14-17 A Headingley, 24-28 July **HORSE RACENS** Trent Bridge 7-11 July Chel Man Mar Jui MOTOR RACING

The Oval, 21-25 July Grand Natio Lord's, 12 July The Derby Lord's 6 Sept **British Grand Prix** 14-1⇒ Jui Le Mans 24hr Chester, 21-24 N 5-27 July RAC Rally

> Hockey Men's HA Cup final, Milton Keynes Teonin Womeo: Weish International open, Cardiff US tha (to 25) Regby union Eastern Province v Lions, Port Elizabeth 12 Teams Men: Italian Open Championships, Rome (to 18); LTA spring satellite mas-Bowis Junior International

German Open, Berlin (to 18) Ming Lymington Cup 13 Horse racing York main meeting (to 15)

Football Nationwide League play-offs, semi-finals, first

- Polo Royal Windsor Cup. Guards (to 1 June) 14 Foothall European Cup-Winners' Cup final; Nationwide League play-offs, semi-finals, second leg nestrianism Royal Windsor Horse Show (to 18) Selling Boston to Guernsey
- race (to 30) 15 Cricket Duke of Norfolk's XI v Australia, one-day game, Arundel Golf Alamo English Open (to 18); Women's Tour Players
- Classic, Macclesfield (to 18) 16 Golf Brabazon Trophy, Saunton (to 18)
- Football FA Cup final Horse racing Lockinge Stakes, Newbury Rugby union Middlesex Twickenham **Criciost** Northamptonshire Australia, one-day game, Northamptoo **Cycling** Tour of Italy (to 8 June)
- 18 Football FA Trophy final Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Brands Hatch; British Formula 3 Championship, Croft **Motorcycling** Italian Grand Prix, Mugello Rugby union Anglo-Welsh Cup Final, tha Cricket Worcestershire V Australia, one-day game, Worcester Tomas Veteran hardcourt Championships, Bourne mouth (to 24)
- **Athletics LAAF Grand Prix** event, Charlotte, NC 19 Tennis Men: Peugeot ATP Tour World Team Cup, Düsselderf; St Pölten Interna tional Grand Prix, Austria. Women's Strasbourg International; Open Paginas Amarillas Villa de Madrid
- (all events to 24) 20 Cricket Durham'v Australia, one-day game. Chester-le-Rallylag Argentine Rally. Cordoba (10 24 Cycling Manx International Douglas, IoM Polo Warwickshire Cup,

Cirencester (to 1 June)

21 Football Uefa Cup final,

second leg

units Women: World Dou bles Cup, Edinburgh (to 24) Salling Medemblik week, Netherlands (to 25) 22 Cricket England v Australia first one-day international Headingley national Horse Trials (to 25) Hirviimic Gy

ropean Championsbips.

Golf Women's Czech Repub-

lic Open, Prague (to 25) 23 Golf Volvo PGA champi onship, Wentworth (to 26) Rowling National Schools Regatta, Worcester (to 25)

Greece (to 25)

24 Cricket England's Australia second one-day internation al, Foster's Oval othell Nationwide League Third Division play-off fina Motor racing Global En durance GT race, venue is

7 and 21 M

- ters, Cardiff (to 16). Women: trial Match New Lount BC 25 Cricket England v Australia third one-day international
 - Football Nationwide League Second Division play-off fina Motor racing Spanish Grand Prix, Barcelo Hockey Women's AEWI'/
 Cup Final, Milton Keyi', ; **Athletics LAAF Grand Pri** event, Eugene, Oregon; in ternational meeting. Jens Germany Bowls Senior Internationa trial Match New Lount BC
 - Leicestershire 26 tennis French Open, Pari (to 8 June) Football Nationwide League First Division play-off final Motor racing Auto Trade RAC British Touring Car Championship, Oulton Park
 - 27 Horse racing Brigadie Gerard Stakes, Sandowi
 - 28 Foothest European Cup fa Rugby union Wester Province v Lions, Cape Tow Athletics International
 - meetings, Ostrava and Rig 29 Golf Deutsche Bank Open TPC of Europe (to 1 June) womeo's Polish open Miedzyzdrole (to I June) Emestrianism Hickster Nadons Cup Show, Susse: (to 1 June)
 - 31 Football Poland v Englal. World Cup qualifying Grip Cricket Derbyshire v 45tralia, three-day game, Dby Rengley endon Free StateLi-

ons Bloemfontein

Attidetics IAAF Grandrix

Two events, Hengelo, Neer-

30 Athletics IAAF C

Athletics IAAF Grand Po

- lands and San Jose JUNE
- Motor racing BritisFor-mula 3 Championip. Silverstone Motorcycling Aurian Grand Prix, Oesterreiring Salling Round Europrace Cherbourg to Stockholmo 21) athletics IAAF Grat Prix Two event. St Denis Hockey Women's Chaptons
- Trophy, Berlin (to 8) Golf British Amateuriampionship, Royal St Garges & Royal Cinque Portuo 7
- Two event, Bratislava Polo Queens Cup, Gards Rugby union Transva: vLinns, Johannesburg Golf English Open Sours

Athletics LAAF Grad Priv

- Woking (106) Criciest England v Austra, first Test, Edgbaston Golf Slaley Hall Northuberland Challenge, Slal-Hall Hesham (to 8); women Danish Open. Veile (10 8) Athletics IAAF Grand P.
- event, Rome Horse racing The Oa







ALPH

FITNESS

لكذا من ألاصل

VORLD SPORT FOR 1997 POLO SPORT

20 Motorcycling German Grand Prix, Nürburgring

Tennis Women: Bank of the West, Stanford, Cal; Warsaw

Cup. Men: Northern Electric

Open, Newcastle; Generali

Open, Kitzbühel, Aut, Croa-

tia International Champi-

onships, Umag Infiniti Open,

Los Angeles (all events to 27)

22 Cricket Gloucestershire v Pakistan A, one-day game,

meeting, Newmarket (ro 18)

18 Cycling World Cup, Tour of Lombardy, Italy

19 Motor racing RAC Tourist Trophy, Denington

20 Touris Men: Eurocard Open, Stuttgart; Mexican Open,

22 Salling Whitbread round the World competitors due in

93 Golf Oki Pro-Am tourna-

24 Golf Women's Deauville Open, France (to 26)

26 Grand Prix, Estoril

Motor racing Portuguese

27 Touris Women: Kremlin

Bogota (all to 2 Nov)

30 Golf Volvo Masters (to 2 Nov.) Railying Australian Rolly, Perils (to 3 Nov.)

NOVEMBER

Rugby league Great Britain v Australia, First Test, venue

Motor racing Global En-durance GT race, Shuhai,

Athletics New York

Touris Men: Kremlin Cup

Moscow, Stockholm Open.

Golf Sarazen World Open

wing Fisa Masters

Regatta, Adelaide (to 9)

Rugby lengue Great Britain v Australia, Second Test,

Horse racing Breeders' Cup

Cycling World Track Chal-

Salling Whitbread Round the World Race, second leg

Temnis Men: ATP Tour World

Championship, Hanover, Guardian Direct Nationals,

Horse racing Mackeson

Rugby league Great Britain

v Australia, Third Test

Gymmatics Men's British

Championships, tha (to 16)

Tonnis Womeo: Chase

Championships of the Corel WTA Tour, New York, Meo.

Pheonix/ATP Tour World

Doubles Championships,

Hartford, Ct (both to 23)

20 Golf World Cup of Golf. Klawah Island, SC (to 23)

21 Railying RAC Raily, Chester (to 24)

77 Motor racing Global En-

LL durance GT race, venue in

Horse racing Ascot Gold

Brazil tha (to 23)

28 Tonnis Davis Cup final (to 30)

29 Horse racing Hennessey Cognae Gold Cup, Newbury

DECEMBER

13 Horse racing Chehenham
Gold Cup

Sydney starts (10 5)

Portugal (or 14)

country championships.

18 Equestrianism Olympia Show Jumping Cham

26 Horse racing King George VI Chase, Kempton

pionships,London (to 22)

Darts Embassy World Cham-

pionships, Frimley Green.

Salling Whitbread Round the World Race, third leg to

Atthletics European cross-

Cup

Surrey

Day, Hollywood Park

enge, Manchester

to Fremantie starts

Telford (both to 16)

15 Horse racing Macket Gold Cup, Cheltenham

Women: Ameritech Cup.

Chicago (all to 9)

China (to 2)

Marathon

(to 9)

venue tha

Cup, Moscow, men: Paris Open; Colombian Open,

Cape Town

(to 25)

43 ment (to 26)

Mexico City. Women: Bell

Challenge, Quebec City: Seat

Open, Luxembourg (all to 26)

Rhythmic Gymnastics

World Championships, Berlin

AIN EVENTS

- Days Cuts three

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RUGBY UNION Hye Nations' Championship

Rallying Acropolis Rally, Athens (to 10); Scottish In-

ternational Rally, Mobil

1/Top Gear British Champi-

Horse racing The Derby

Football Republic of Ireland

qualifying Group Eight,

Rugby union Northern

Rugby league World Club Challenge matches

Football Belarus v Scot-

land, World Cup qualifying

Athletics Grand Prix meet-

ing, Moscow: international meetings, Padua and Duisburg

Prix, Paul Ricard; Superbike

Grass Court Championships,

Queen's Club, London; Ger-

ry Weber Open, Halle, Ger.

Women: DFS Classic, Edg-baston Priory (all events to 15)

Athietics International

Rugby union South-east

Men's European Tour event

Athletics US championships

and trials, Indianapolis (to 15)

Eccestrianism Brambam

International Three-day

Event, Yorkshire (to 15)

ham; international meeting,

Motor racing Le Mans 24-

Rugby union Natal v Lions.

Rugby league World Club Challenge matches

Trader RAC British Touring

Car Championship, Donington

Motorcycling Superbike

Athletics IAAF Grand Priz

Nottingham Open; Carisbo In

terntional, Bologna (both to 21). Women: Wilkinson Lady

Championships, Rosmalen,

mis Women: Direct Line

championship, Eastbourne

Rugby union Emerging

Golf Women's Evian Mas-

Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

Golf Volvo German Open (to

22); European Seniors Open,

Ascona, Switzerland (to 21)

Athletics International

21 Amietics European Cup. Super League. Munich

Sarling Ricl Week, Ger-

LU meeting Lisbon

many (to 29)

Football Close season

17 Horse racing Royal Ascot

Springboks v Lions,

18 Golf Women's Evia ters. France (to 21)

Two event, Helsinki

19 Cricket England v Australia, Second Test. Lord's

Two event, Gateshead

16 Femils Wimbledon qualifying Rochampion (to 19). Men

Neth (to 21)

(to 21)

15 Motor racing Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal; Auto

13 Athleties Britain v France v Germany Under-23, Hex-

14 tralia, three-day game,

Leicester

hour (to 15)

Athletics Internation meeting, Prague

11 Rugby maon sound

12 Solf US Open, Congressional, Bethesda, Maryland;

Lausanne (all to 15)

Witbank

nois Men: Stella Artois

French Grand

aal v Lions, Pretoria

Liechtenstein, World Cup

onship (to 7)

Scotland v Wales reland v France England v Scotland MOTOR Bar rance v Wales reland v England Scotland v Ireland gand v France

les v England

rance v Scotland

29 March Pilidugton Cup final 11 Oct 20 Sept

Murrayfield, 18 Jan

Twickenham, 1 Feb

Murrayfield, 1 March

Dublin, 18 Jan

Cardiff, 1 Feb

Paris, 15 Feb

Twickenham, 1 March French Open

Cardiff, 15 March Wimbledon

Paris, 15 March US Open

Rugby union South Africa v British Isles, Cape Town

Rugby league World Club Challenge matches

Rowing Henley Women's

22 Mother racing British

23 Years Wimbledon Cham-pionships (to 6 July)

24 Equestrianism Aachen Nations Cup Show, Ger-

Rughy union Border v

Sports Acrobatics Euro-

pean Championships (to 30),

v Australia, three-day game,

Athletics Grand Prix event

Golf European Men's Team

ampionship, Portmarnock

Lions, Port East London

25 Cricket British Universities

26 Gotf Peugeot French Open (to 29); Women's Hennessy.

77 Athletics Women's inter-

70 Cricket Hampshire v Aus-

Lo tralia, three-day game,

Horse racing Northum

berland Plate, Newcastle

Motor racing Global En

durance GT race, Nurbur-

v British Isles, Durban

Tallinn, Estonia (to 29)

29 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

ugby union South Africa

Athletics Enropean Cup

Combined Events, women, Oulo, Finland, and men

Polo Gold Cop/British Open

Motor racing French Grand

Prix, Magny-Cours, Acto Trader RAC British Touring

Motorcycling Dutch Grand

Cycling British road race Championship, Abergavenny

30 Bowls British Isles Champi-onships, Worthing, England (to 4 July)

JULY

Rugby union South African Barbarians v British Isles,

Salling Coupe de France

Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

Rowing Henley Royal Re-

Pakistan A, three-day game,

Golf European Men's Team

Championship, Portmamock

Criciest England v Australia Third Test, Old Trafford

Golf Murphy's Irish Oper Druids Glen, County Wick-

low (to 6): Women's Austri-

Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

Cycling Tour de France,

Horse racing Eclipse Stakes,

Criciast Derbyshire v Pakistan

A, three-day game. Derby

starts in Rouen (to 27)

an Open, venue tha (to 6)

Polo National Women's

event, Oslo

Sandown

eatta (to 6)

Trent Bridge

Car Championship, Croft

Cowdray Park (to 20 July)

national meeting, Rheims

Cologne (to 29)

General Gyuns

ogym (to I Aug)

Southampton

'gring (to 29)

meeting, Lucerne

many (to 29)

Germany

The Parks

(to 29)

Athletics International

Oulton Park

Dublin, 15 Feb

Swalec Cup figal Wembley, 3 May Scottish Cop final South Africa v British Isles First Test Second Test Third Test

Enropeen Cup final

Cape Town, 21 June Durban, 28 June Johannesburg, 5 July SNOOKER

Twickenham, 10 May

Murrayfield, 10 May

Cardiff, 10 May

25 Jan

Sheffield, 19 April - 6 May TABLE TENNIS Manchester, 24 April-5 May Australian Open

23 Athletics International meeting, Lappeenranta, Melbourne, 13 - 26 Jan Paris, 26 May - 8 June London, 23 June - 6 July New York, 25 Aug - 7 Sept

Motorcycling San Marino Grand Prix, Imola

Athletics Grand Prix event.

second round; LTA satellit

Feliastowe (to 12), men Brie

of challenger Trophy: Swiss

Open, Gstaad: Swedish

Open, Bastad; Hall of Fame

Championships, Newport, RI (all to 13)

Horse racing Newmarket

July meeting (to 10)

Salling Hamble Week

including 6m Euros (to 12)

Criciant Minor Counties v

Australia, one-day game, Jes-mond; MCC v Pakistan A.

three-day game, Shenley,

Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

Golf Loch Lomond World

Equestrianism Royal in-

mational Horse Show,

Athletics AAA Champi-

onships, Birmingham (to 13)

wing Lucerne Inter-

national Regatta (to 13)

Cricient Scotland v Australia

one-day game, Edinburgh

Rowley Henley Veterans'

3 Motor racing British Grand Prix, Silverstone; Global En-Motor rucing British Grand

Motorcycling Spa 24-hour

durance GT race, tha

event, Laguna Seca,

4 Stuttgart; Legg Mason Classic, Washington; LTA Man-

chester Challenger, West

Didsbury. women: Czech

Open, Karlovy Vary: Palermo

International (all to 20); LTA

satellite, Frinton-on-Sca, Es-

Cricion EBC XI v Pakistan

Athletics International

meeting, Salamanca, Spain

cial Olympic Games, Portsmouth (to 18)

16 Criciest Glamorgan v Australia, three-day game,

Cardiff: Worcestershire

Pakistan A. three-day game

Athletics Grand Prix event,

Nice: World Veterans Cham

nionshins, Durban (to 27)

Golf Open Championship,

Salling Source Regatta, in-

cluding ILC40s and Mumm

National Champi-

onships, Holme Pierrepont,

Lord's: Somerset v Pakistan

A, three-day game, Taumton

Athletics International

meetings, Sestriere, Italy and Hechtel, the Netherlands:

Kenyan world championship

Routing Nations Cup, Milan

Rugby league World Club

trials, Nairobi (to 20

Challenge matches

Royal Troon (to 20)

36s, Lymington (to 20)

16 Cycling British Track Cham-pionships, Manchester (to

19 Criciest Middlesex v Anstralia, three-day game,

Nottingham

15 Salles Celtic Cup. Pwilheli (to 19)

A, one-day game. Walsali

sex (to 19)

Regatta

Motor racing British For-mula 3 Championship, Sil-

Hickstead Sussex (to 13)

Two event Linz Austria

Invitational (to 12)

nis Women: Fed Cup.

Stockholm

24 Cricies Engines Sus-Fourth Test, Headingley: Sus-Courter A. four-day sex v Pakistan A, four-day game, Trent Bridge Golf Sun Dutch Open (to Ringby traion South Africa v British Isles, Johannesburg 27); Women's German Open. Hamburg (to 27) ing Swan Enros, Cowes Athletics European Junior

Cheltenham

Finland

Championships, Ljubljana, Slovenia (to 27) 26 Horse racing King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot Rowing Home internation al, Holme Pierrepoot, Not-Rugby league World Club

Challenge matches

Motor racing German Grand Prix, Hockenheim Motorcycling Suzuka Eight-hour Endurance race, Japan Polo International Day, Cow-Connect Cympastics

Germany (to 1 Aug) O Salling Admiral's Cup **LO Tennis** Women: Toshiba Classic, San Diego; Styria Open, Maria Lankowitz, Aut (both to 3 Aug): LTA sum-mer satellite, likley (to 2 Aug). Men: du Maurier Open, Montreal; Gröisch Open, Amsterdam (both to 3 Aug)

Championship (to 2 Aug) 29 Horse racing Glorious Goodwood (to 2 Aug.) Goodwood (to 2 Aug) Cricket Glamorgan or Hampshire v Pakistan A, one-day game, Cardiff or Southampton (dependent on Nat West result)

Golf English Amateur

lenge Cup (to 3 Aug) **Gotf** Volvo Scandinavian Masters (to 3 Aug)

Polo Cowdray Park Chal-

Athletics IAAP World

AUGUST

Championship, Athens Criciost Somerset v. Australia, four-day game, Taunton: Gloucestershire Pakistan A, four-day game, House Trials Champions

Gatcombe Park, (to 3) Rallying New Zealand Ral ly, Auckland (to 5); Ulster Rally, Mobil 1/Top Gear British Championship (to 3) Hockey Women's World Cup qualifier, Harare (to 12) Rowing Coupe de la Jeunesse, holme Pierrepont, Nottingham (to 3)

Regby league World Club Challenge matches

Salling Cowes Week (to 10) Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Champiouship, Knockhill Motorcycling Superbike event. Brands Hatch Tormis LTA summer satellite Southsea (to 9)

Tonnis Men: Great Ameri can insurance ATP Champi onship, Cincinnari. Women Acura Classic, Los

Angeles (all to 10) Polo National 15 Goal Championship, Cirences

Golf British Seniors Open, Sherwood Forest & Coxmoor (10 8) Equestrianism Dublin Rowing Junior World Charo piouships, Hazewinkel, Belgium

day game, Headingley

10): Czech Open (to 10)

Criciast Englandy Australia. Fifth Test, Trent Bridge; Yorkshire v Pakistan A, four Assen, Netherlands Golf WPGA Championship of Europe, Gleaneagles (to Two event, Sheffield Rowlag World Champi

onships, Aiguebelette, France (to 7) Gymnastics World Championships, Lausanne. Switzerland (to 7)

Motor racing Hungarian Grand Prix, Budapest; Auto Trader RAC British Touring Korea (to 13)

Tennis Men: RCA Championships Indiananolis Pilot Pen International New rier Open, Toronto (all to 17) LTA summer satelline. West Worthing (to 16)

13 Athletics Grand Prix event. Zurich highy league World Club

Golf US PGA Championship, Winged Foot, Mamajonek. New York: Women's British Open, Sunninedale: Men's European Tour event the (all to 17) trianism Hickstead Derby, Sussex (to 17)

Golf Walker Cup. Quaker

Tonnis British National Vet-

Salling Fastnet Race starts

eran Championships, Wim-

Ridge, New York (to 10)

Cycling San Schastian

Car Championship.

Spetterton

bledon (to 17)

Classic, Spain

15 Motorcycling British Grand Prix, Donington (to 17) Cricicat First Class County Select XI v Pakistan A. fourday game. Chelmsford

Horse racing Geoffrey Cricket Kent v Australia three-day game, Canterbury Athletics IAAF Grand Prix event. Monaco

Motorcycling British Grand Prix, Donington Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship. Cycling Leeds Classic Bouls EBA National Cham-

pionships, Worthing (to 29)

18 Teamis Men: US Pro Tennis Championships, Boston; Hamlet Cup, Long Island (both to 24): LTA summer satellite masters, Havant (to 22), Women: US Hard Court ampionships, Atlanta, Georgia (to 23)

1 O Horse racing Elver meeting. York (to 21)

20 Athletics Britain v Interna-tional Select, Gateshead (or 24); international meeting, Rovereto; Universiade, Palermo, Italy

21 Criciant England v Australia, Sixth Test, Foster's Oval Smurfit European Open (to 24); Women's Compag Open, Stockholm (to 24) Salling 470 World Championships, Haifa (to 31)

22 Attrictics Grand Princycnt, Golf Logan Trophy Stockport (to 4)

23 Horse racing Celebration Mile, Goodwood Motor racing Global

24 Mater racing Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francor-champs, British Formula 3 Championship, Donington Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

event, Cologne, Germany Tesmis US Open, Flushing Meadow, NY (to 7 Sept) Motor racing Auto Trade: RAC British Touring Car

Championship Threaton

26 Attiletics Grand Prix event Berlin (or 5 Sept)

Ecoestrianism European show Jumping Champ ionships, Mannheim (to 31)

28 Solf BMW International Open (to 31); Womeo's European Open, venue tha (to 31)

29 Railying 1,000 Lakes Raily. Jyvaskyla, Finland

30 Bowle Inter-County Cham-pionship (Middleton Cup) Worthing Rugby league Stone Supe League ends

31 Motorcycling Czech Grand Prix, Brno; Superbike event, **Attisetics** LAAF Grand Prix

SEPTEMBER

Hockey Women's Under-21 World Cup. Songnam.

Athletics LAAF Grand Prix Two event Rich Italy

Golf Canon European Masters. Crans-sur-Sierre. Switzerland (to 7), Women's French Open, Paris (to 7) Emsestrianism Blenheim International Three-day Event, Oxfordshire (to ?)

Motor racing Global Endurance GT race, Doning-ton (to 7) Horse racing Haydock Park Sprint Cup Rugby league Stones Premiership quarter finals Cycling Tour of Spain

Motor racing Julian Grand Prix, Monza, Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Brands

International Open: Mar-bella Open; Exenberg Israel Open. Tel Aviv (all to 14)

Bowis National 55s & over singles and pairs competitions

Horse racing St Leger meeting, Doncaster (to 13) Golf Home internationals. Burnham & Berrow (to 4)

Golf Lancome Trophy, St. Nom la Breteche, Paris (to Women's English Open. venue tha (to 14)

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> Rappos Milt Be defends his Formula One world fith in an Arrows

Equestrianism European Open Three-day Event Lincolnshire (to 14) Rallying Many International Rally, Mobil 1/Top Gear British Champi

13 Athletics IAAF Grand Prox Final, Fukuoka, japan, Mul-ti eve ots meeting, Tallence, France (to 14)

Rugby league Stones Premiership semi-finals Rowing Great River Race Bowls Junior international series, Llandrindod Wells (to 14)

Motor racing British 4 Formula 3 Championship, Spenerion Motorcycling Spanish Grand Prix, Barcelona: Paul Ricard Endurance race.

15 Yennis Men: Davis Cup semi-finals; LTA autumn satellite, venue tha (to 21). Women: international event Tokyo (to 21)

16 Bowls National mixed fours competition [to 17)

17 Railying Indonesian Raily, Medan (10 21) Hockey Men's Under-21 World Cup, Milton Keynes (to 28)

18 Goff One-2-One British Masters (to 21); Women's Irish Open, Duhlin (10 21) Sports Acrobatics World Championships, Manchester Velodrome (to 21)

anis Men: Davis Cup, 19 Fennis Men: Davis Cup World Group, semi-finals and qualifying round (to 21)

20 Horse racing Mill Reef Stakes, Newbury Rugby league Stones Pre-Bowls National mixed pairs competitions (to 21)

21 Motor racing Austriao Grand Prix, A-1 Ring: Auto Trader RAC British Touring

Car Championship, Silver-Settler Whitbread Round the World Race starts Motorcycling Superbike

event, Albacete, Spain Horse racing Irish St Leeer, The Curragh Tonnis LTA autumn satellite, venue tha (to 28)

77 Touris Men: Grand Slam Cup; Romanian Open, Rucharest: Toulouse Grand Prix (both to 28); LTA summer satellite masters. Havant (to 22), women: Wismilak International, Surabaya, Indon (to 28)

Equestrianism Horse of the Year Show, Wembley

Arena (to 28) 25 Cycling World Masters Challenge, Manchester

(to 25) **Golf** Women's Turkish Open, Antalya (to 28)

26 Gotf Ryder Cup by Johnnie Walker, Valderrama, Spain 1025

Mntor racing Global Endurance GT race, Spa-Francorchamps (to 28) Horse racing Oucen Elizabeth Stakes, Ascot Rughy league World Club Challenge quarter-finals

28 Motor racing Luxem-bourg Grand Prix, Nurhurgring; British Formula 3 hampionship, Spa-Francorchamps Motorcycling Indonesian

Grand Prix, Sentul Tonnis LTA autumn satellite, veoue that (to 5 Oct) Tonnis Men: Swiss Indoor tournament, Basel; Sicilian

Championships, Palermo; Peking Open, wnmen: Fed Cup final; Sparkassen Cup, Leipzig: China Open. Peking (all to 5 Oct)

30 Herse racing Camhridgeshire meeting, Newmarket (to 5 Oct)

OCTOBER

Golf Women's World Match Play Championship, venue tha (to 5); Linde German Masters (105)

Motor racing Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka

Challenge semi-finals Motor racing British For-mula 3 Championship, Sil-

VCTSIOnC Motorcycling Superbike event, Sugo, Japan Cycling World Cup. Paris-Tours race

Tomis Men: CA Trophy, Vienna: Singapore Open (both to 12); LTA autumn satellite masters, venue tha (to 10): British national veteran indoor Championships (to 11). Women: Porsche Grand Prix.

Filderstadt, Ger (to 12) Cycling World Road Race Championship, San Sebastian, Spain (10 12)

Golf Toyota World Match

worth (to 12) Hockey Meo's Champions Trophy, Adelaide (to 19)

Rallylag San Remo and Italian Rally (to 15)

Motor racing Global Endurane GT event, Barcelona Rugby league World Club Challeoge final

12 Motor racing Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka; British Formula 3 Championship, Thruston Motorcycling Australian Grand Prix, Phillip Island; Superbike event, Sentul.

13 Tomis Men: Czech Indoor tournament, Ostrava; Lyon Grand Prix, Women: Euro-Zurich (all to 19)

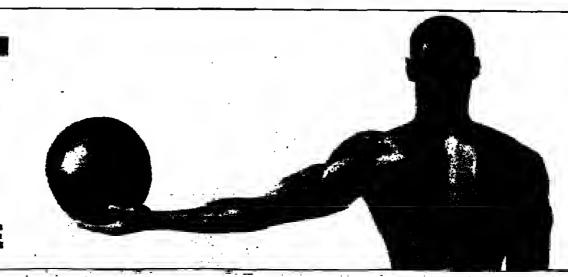
16 Gotf Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews (10 19)

17 Horse racing Cesarewitch

7 Horse racing Welsh A I National Chepstow

Compiled by Mark Burton

FRAGRANCE







Alfred Gell

Alfred Gell was arguably the most brilliant social anthropolugist of his generation. He had a very rare combination of intellectual skills, and often dazzled his readers and listeners with both his penetrating logic and imaginative insights, many of which came from his unusual ability tu transcend conventional boundaries of knowledge.

Gell took his BA in social anthropology from the Universi-ty of Cambridge in 1968 and completed his PhD degree at the London School of Economics in 1973 with a thesis based on his fieldwork in a remote settlement in New Guinea. He held lectureships at the LSE, Sussex University and the Australian National University, and in 1979 be was appointed Reader in Anthro-pology at the LSE. He received several academic prizes and in 1995 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

His academic reputation was

primarily based on a score of articles and three books: Metamorphosis of the Cassowaries (1975). The Anthropology of Time (1992) and Wrapping in Images: a study of tattooing in Polynesia (1993). He also completed a fourth book, The Art Neaus.

which will be published soon.

Metamorphosis of the Cassowaries was an outstandingly original book, particularly in its interpretation of ritual in the Umeda settlement io New Guinea. Drawing inspiration from Levi-Strauss, hut depending more on his own aesthetic sensibility. Gell exhaustively teased out the complex meanings of Umeda ritual life. The book gave rise to a continuing debate about whether Gell overstated the coherence of Umeda thought and practice. but even his severest critics acknowledged that he had takeo the analysis of "tribal" ritual to a new level of sophistication.

book may suggest that Gell liked to exaggerate the otherness of other cultures. Nothing could be further from the truth. In many ways he was a romantic, but he was also adamantly rationalist, and The Anthropology of Time relentlessly de-

ployed philosophical arguments and ethnographic data to demonstrate that much anthropological writing about exotic concepts of time is fallacious. Although specialists may find some of its argu-ments uncoovincing, the book as a whole is a masterly refutation of exaggerated cultural Wrapping in Images and his forthcoming hook The Art Nexus represent Gell's main cootributions to the anthro-

pology of art, a rather stagnant

subdiscipline he was deter-

mined to shake up. He charac-

teristically combined a deep

understanding of art history and criticism with studies of

erate a radical cross-cultural perspective on art and its social context which has thoroughly revitalised the field. When at Sussex, Gell met and later married Simeran Man Singh. With Simeran, he began fieldwork among the Muria Goods of Madbya Pradesh in India and made a number of visits there. Based on this re-

dance and techhology, mixed in

his philosophical knowledge,

and worked through a mass of

ethnographic literature to gen-

portant articles and developed an increasing interest in India. His last public academic appearance was to deliver the Frazer lecture in November 1996. when he presented a typically radical analysis of ritual and tribrebellion among the Gonds. At the LSE, Gell was an inpired teacher, to whom many

of his students became devot-

ed. He was not always consis-

tent, hut his best lectures were

search, he wrote several im-

was, as he admitted, dreadful at administration, which sometimes exasperated his colleagues. But nobody could ever be angry with Gell for long after he had charmingly and sheepishly apologised for his lapses. He was perhaps most impressive in the anthropology department's weekly seminars. However good or bad the paper, Gell would usually deliver a comment, a question or sometimes a demniition that nobody else could have thought of. Sometimes he was wrong, but far more often he was right in a way that neither the speaker nor the audience had previously perceived. The LSE without Alfred Gell will be a

In seminars, it was a good idea to sit next to Gell, because then one could also enjoy the drawings which always covered his notepaper. He was a very tal-

duller place.

scintillating and his students ented artist and a project cut were rarely if ever bored. He short by his death was a series of drawings and paintings of the old Muslim tombs near the Qutb Minar south of Delhi. On a beautiful spring afternoon in 1995, Alfred and Simeran Gell took me to visit the tombs, which had come to fascinate him. As monumeous of Delhi's ruined empires, the tombs are evocative symbols of a past cul-ture that also remiod us of the realities of political power and its disintegration, and he was drawn to them, I think, by the same mixture of romanucism and hard-nosed rationality which animated the anthropological work for which he will long be remembered.

Gell (and his work) will be remembered too for his distinctive intellectual courage and integrity. He detested posturing and on detecting untruth be announced it forcefully. But he was not just a critic; he was also passionate and unequivocal

about the truth as he saw it, and was never afraid to question the conventionally unquestionable. A few years ago, Alfred Gell had been seriously ill and had had one eye surgically removed. fn late summer 1996, he discovered that he had an incur-

to deliver his Fraz er lecture, and he told his closest friends that he had achieved what he had wanted to. In his last few weeks, he weakened rapidly until he died, as he had wished, peacefully and at home with dignity. He was 51.

Facing death, as he had already faced serious illness, he again displayed his courage, as well as a profoundly impressive calmness and realism; he continued to cutertain and enlighten his family and friends... until he was just too weak to do so any longer.

Chris Fuller

Alfred Aniony Francis Gell, anthropologist: horn 12 June 1945; Lecturer in Anthropology, Sussex University 1972-74; Lecturer in Anthropology, ANU 1974-79 Reader in Anthropology, London School of Economics 1979-97: FB.4 1995; married 1974 Simerahle cancer. He managed to an Man Singh (one son); died 28 complete his fourth book and January 1997.

Raya Garbousova

Read superficially, his first

The distinguished Russian-born cellist Rava Garbousova seemed to be virtually immortal. She not only looked 20 years younger than her age, but also possessed remarkable energy that enabled her tu teach and give masterclasses right up to the end.

She was born in Tiflis in Georgia into a family of musicians: her father was principal trumpeter of the Tiflis Symphony Orchestra and professor at the Conservatory. She began studies on piano at the age of four and when she heard her father's friend Serge Koussevitsky playing double-bass she decided she liked the deep sound and started oo the cello at six. Her progress was so rapid she entered the Tiflis Conservatory the following year as a student of Konstantin Miniar, a pupil of Davidov.

After a successful debut in Tiflis and many solo appearances. in 1924, aged 18, she made debuts in Moscow and Leningrad, where a critic compared her playing to that of Emanuel Feuermann. Also at this time, she played chamber music with two young musicians just making a name for themselves in Russia, Nathan Milstein and Vladimir Horowitz.

Garbousova made her début recital in Berlin in 1926 with the pianist Michael Taube, and again the critics raved about her "colossal talent" and described her as "an exceptional musical phenomenon". It was Taube

who introduced her to Albert Einstein, who had a passioo for the violin. She told me: "I played chamber music with him, hut I'm sorry to say he wasn't very good and was always a little hit out of tune. But he was a wonderful old man and we became very attached to each other." Einstein remained a devoted fan and would place a box of chocolates on the

stage instead of flowers. She made her Paris dehut in 1927 and it was there that she met Casals and studied with him. She later appeared in Barcelona as a soloist with Casals conducting his own orchestra, It was he who suggested she should study with Diran Alexanian and she considered that what she learnt from him remained all her life as her "musical capital": What I learnt from him was over-whelming. His whole approach to the instrument changed my ideas. I also returned to him much later and that

returned to this much jater and that became one of the most important pe-riods in my musical life. It was not only the tuition but the discussions we had about everything you can imagine – quite apart from music – which were of the greatest importance, Garbousova's London début took place in 1926 and again the critics were bowled over by her talent. Her first American engagement came about because the pianist Ossip Gabrilovitch had heard her in Paris and immediately invited her to play the

tra, of which he was the cooductor. Shortly afterwards she was engaged as a soloist by Serge Koussevitsky, now conductor of the Boston Symphooy Orchestra. This was a happy reunion for them both.

In 1934 Garbousova made her recital début at the Town Hall in New York and Olin Downes from the New York Times waxed lyrical: "Miss Garbousova's technique is the vehicle of a cootagious temperament, musicianship and taste. The crowning fact is the distinction of her style." From this time onwards she appeared in concerts all over the world. but made her home in Paris. Her first husband died fighting in the French Resistance in 1943 and in 1946 she became a citizen of the United States, where she met and in 1949 married the cardiologist Dr Kurt Biss, Their two sons are both musicians.

Many composers wrote works for Garbousova: she commissioned and premiered the Samuel Barber Concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Koussevitsky in 1946 and was frequently consulted by the composer on the instrumental possibilities related to the cello; it was published with the cello part edited by Garbousova. She also premiered the Martinu Third also had a delightful sense of hu-Sonata in the US and Prok-mour. There is a story from her flis, Georgia 25 September 1909; Haydn D major Concerto with office's Sonata. She made nu- early years about when she was twice married (two sons); died



master-classes world-wide. She was professor of cello at Hartford University (1970-79) and at Northern Illinois University (1979-91), where she was made Honorary Doctor of Human Letters in 1992.

Garbousova was not only a very beautiful woman with a film-star charisma, but kind, gentle and considerate to all came within her orbit. She the Detroit Symphony Orches merous recordings and held at a party and took on a five- DeKalb, Illinois 28 January 1997. Ligia Fagundes Telles, Nélida

dollar het to kiss Toscanini, who was sitting at the next table. The maestro was delighted to be approached by such a beautiful young girl and offered the other check. Encouraged by his enthusiasm she kissed him on both cheeks with the excuse that she could now claim 10 dollars,

Margaret Campbell

Raya Garbousova, cellist born Ti-

Antônio Callado Piñon, João Ubaldo Ribeiro,

Always a man of his word, Antònio Callado died, aged 80 and two days, a week after stating that to live beyood 80 was an exaggeration, almost an excess. No wonder one of his friends said once that Callado was the "nnly real-life Engish gentleman to write great

Brazilian novels". This elegant, witty, handsome man cultivated a British image as a private and public joke. He worked for the BBC during the Second World War, married a Briton, had the thin moustache of a retired colonel of the shires, and shared his drinking tastes between whisky and well-chosen port vintages. His father, a doctor, had cultivated the French image fashionable in his day. But both were as Brazilian as they come, and Callado created in his fiction what one critic described as "the epitome of the best men of our eneration".

This was no small feat, as Callado wrote during a golden age of Brazilian literature. His first novel, Assurção de Salviano ("The Assumption of Salviano"), was published in 1954, and his last book, O homem cordial e outras histórias ("Men of Feeling and Other Stories"). came out in 1993. In this 40-year period some important works by key Brazilian writers - such as Guimarães Rosa, Clarice Lispector, Autran Dourado,

and Rubem Fonseca - were published. Callado's masterpiece. Qua-

rup (1967), whose title is the name given by Xingu Indians to a death ceremony, was his third novel, and was hailed as a fictional landmark. The story of a priest who finds love and a political conscience amongst the Xingu Indians, it is a Bildungsroman that is at the same time a hackstage panoramic view of Brazil's history in a period of crisis. It starts with the suicide of the populist dictator Getulio Vargas in 1954, and closes with the begining of the armed resistance to the 1964 military coup.

For both the Brazilian left and liberation theologians Quantp was a mirror and a signpost. The novel was first drafted in prison by Callado, in a cell shared with the film-maker Glauber Rocha, during the first repressive wave of the military dictatorship in 1965. At that time Callado was a leader writer for Jornal do Brasil, one of the three main national Brazilian dailies. For those of us who read. his novels and his limpid, courageous articles, and knew him as a fellow journalist, Callado was one of the great newspapermen low. His generosity with young colleagues, and his professional integrity, were legendary. When a intrepid opponent of the dictatorship, Carlos Heitor Cuny - also a distinguished ournalist and novelist - was forced to resign from the paper Callado edited, Callado resigned with him in protest, He may have been, as one of his friends said, "the sweetest of radicals", but those of us who. rallied to him learned never tu give up in dark times. Callado became a journalist

at 20. in 1937, during Vargas' Estado Novo fascistic dictatorship. In 1941 he came to London to work for the BBC's Brazilian Service, and after the Second World War worked in Paris for Radio diffusion Française and as a European correspondent. As a reporter, editor, and leader writer he worked for all the main Brazilian daily newspapers. After retirement in 1975 he devoted himself to literature, but continued to write weekly articles to the last.

His last novel was Memorias de Aldenham House (1989), set in the country house where the BBC language services were lo-cated in the 1940s. Not the best of his efforts, it is a political thriller in which he fondly recalls his British experience.

Hugo Estenssore

Antonio Callado, writer: born Niterói, Brazil 26 January 1917; married 1943 Jean Watson (deceased), 1977 Ana Arrudo; died Rio de Janeiro 28 January

Professor Bill Whimster

It was characteristic of Bill Whimster that on the morning of his sudden death he had been roller-blading on the front at Brighton, a few minutes befure a committee meeting.

Whimster belied the popular image of the pathology professor as a dour uncommunicative figure, closeted in a dingy postmortem room. But there was much more to him than mere bubbling personality and bovish charm. He helped to revolutionise medical communication and teaching, using new formats such as computers and television as well as improving the old ones. His research, with its emphasis on precise measurement of the size of individual tumour

cells under the microscope, is already altering the way doctors think about cancer.

Whimster hated pigeonholes. "I'm not a laboratory rat," he would cry as he strode off the boring but obvious Pennine Way into the boggy peat, and his career showed a predilection for knight's moves.

Rather than serve in the armed forces, he chose to spend time in the colonial service. At first he went to Fiji and then to Nuic Island, in the New Zealand Island Territories. Here he was on his own, at once surgeon (operating with an orderly as ragand-bottle anaesthetist and with Pye's Surgical Handierust stuck up on a shelf), public health of-

ficer, forensic examiner, and ob- lateral move, into morbid anatstetrician - delivering his own first child.

Had the colonies continued to exist, I suspect that Whimster would have been happiest doing such general duties. He had done more varied house jobs than most doctors - and, even much later, after he had entered his specialty, he was also to pass the difficult examination for the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, a rare

On his return from the Pacific he trained as a general pathol-ogist at Lewisham Hospital, and then moved to the Royal Free Hospital as a registrar in haematology. During his next

omy at the same hospital, he returned to the former colonies, when he was seconded to the university in Jamaica. By this time he had started research into

lung diseases, using the technique of examining slices of whole lung which he was to make his own. This work provided in particular more evidence for the harmful effects of smoking on the lung, and he continued it on his return to Britain in appointments at the Brompton Hospital and the Medical Research Council's Air Pollution

Research Unit at Bart's. In 1974 he moved finally to King's, widening his research to include morphometry, the new

technique for accurate measurement of individual cells, particularly those in venous types of cancer, and he was to organise several important international conferences on the subject.

He was also hooked on making medical communication better. He served on a Nuffield committee for improving communication between doctors and patients, was a pioocer in teaching better medical writing all over the world, and did much to raise the standards of undergraduate and postgraduate medical teaching. For the last nine years he had been editor of the lively Bulletin of the Royal College of Pathologists. And, convinced that too many

doctors forget the lessons of the past, he was to collapse and die at King's College, Strand, while giving the first of a new series of lectures on the importance of medical history to current

thinking. In some ways Whimster re-mained the bolshie Sedbergh schoolboy - the school chosen by his medical parents to get him away from Nottingham. Certainly he loved unorganised sport - downhill skiing and windsurfing - and was never happier that when messing about on his barge. He hated pomp, and, though a natural joiner, would resign from any institution whose prime motives seemed to be to give its senior

members gold medals. Yet, he had an admiration for echoes of the past: the lavish examiners' lunch at the Apothecaries; the presidential election at the Royal College of Physicians; the seedy grandeur of the Athenaeum. But rarely can a whole teaching hospital (including nurses, porters and clerical officers) have been as devastated by the death of an individual who only a generation ago they would have placed in a second or third tier of importance.

Stephen Lock

William Frederick Whimster, histopathologist: born Nottingham 7 June 1934; Senior Lecturer in Morbid Anatomy, King's Col-



Whimster, knight's moves

lege School of Medicine and Dentistry, London University 1974-83, Reader 1983-91, Professor of Histopathology 1991-97; married 1958 Sibyl Wallace (two sons, two daughters); died London 24 January 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

de PARAVICTNE: On 28 January 1997, John Dodson, aged 92, passed peace-fully away, father of Tim and Fran-ers, grandfather of Avalon and Nevin, Funeral, St Mary's, Abbotts Ann, An-dower, on Friday 7 February at 2pm. diver, on Friday 7 February at 2pm.
HURFORD: James David Kinahan Hurford MBE, suddernly, on 29 January 1997, aged 51, in hospital, after a brave fight against cancer. Dearth loved husband of Kate. Loving son of loy and the late David Hurford, creatly lowed brother of Patricia and Caroline (Lulu), Much-loved brother-m-haw and uncle. Greatly missed by all his family and friends, Funeral service. I pm. Wednesday 5 February, at St Andrew's Church, Broughton, Kettering, followed by bural at Broughton Cemetry. Enquiries about flowers of donations to Jack Warwick Funeral Service, In Wallis Road, Keltering NN15 6NX, 01530 85035.

NEWBURY: Row D.A., peacefully, on 30 January 1997, at the Royal Unit-ed Hospital, Bath, aged 82. Dearly loved husband of Yvume, deveted fa-ther of Richard, John and Jerny, and fond grandfather of Viola, Edward. acon granulation of viola, Edward Emercal, Arthur, Cressida and Billy, Funeral service at Havcombe Cre-matorium, Bath, at 12 Mpm on 5 February, Family dowers only, but do-nations, if desired, to the RNIB, 60 Hooper and Son, 13 St James Parade, Bath.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, relephone 0171-293 2011. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Changing of the Guard
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Birthdays TODAY: Lord Abernethy, a Senator

of the College of Justice in Scotland, 59; Dr Christopher Barnett, Head-master, Whitgiff School, Croydon, 44; Sir Kenneth Bond, former vice-chairman, GEC, 77; Sir Peter Crill. judge, Court of Appeat of Jersey and Guernsey, 72: Mrs Josceline Dimbleby, cookery writer, 54; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 69; Mrs Virginia Elliot, Three-Day Evenler, 42: Mr Don Everly, singer, 60; Sir Douglas Hall Bt, former overseas overnor, 88; Hildegarde (Miss-lildegarde Sell), singer and actress, 91: Sir Gordon Hobday, former weller, Nottingham University, Mr Adam Ingram MP. 50; Pro-fessor Douglas Johnson, historian of France, 72; Sir Maurice Laing, life president, John Laing plc, 79; Mr John Donald McCall, former chair-man, Consolidated Gold Fields, 86; Sir Stanley Matthews, footballer, 82; Sir John Nott, former chairman and chief executive of Lazards, 65; Professor Sir Mark Richmond, men ber. School of Public Policy, University College London, 66: Mr Peter Sallis, actor, 76; Mr Andrew Smith MP, 46; Dame Muriel Spark, novelist. 79; Sir Peter Tapsell MP, 67; Miss Renata Tebaldi, operatie soprano, 75; Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the

Russian Federation, 66. TOMORROW: Mr Ken Bruce. broadcaster, 46; Sir Gordon Bryce, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 84; The Earl of Clarendon, former chairman and managing director, Seccombe, Marshall and ampion, 64, Dr Macdonald Critchley, neurologist. 97; Mr Andrew Davis, conductor, and musical director, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, 53: The Very Rev Dr Victor de Waal, former Dean of Canterbury, 68; Mr Abba Eban, former Israeli for-Mr Abba Eban, tormer israeli tor-eign minister, 82; Mr Glynn Edwards, actor, 66; Sir Norman Fowler MP, 59; M Valery Giscard d'Estaing, tormer Freuch president. 71; Mr Hughie Green, former television presenter, 77; Mr Marcus Hope, ambassador to Zaire, 55; Mr David Jason, actor, 57: Mr David Jones, chief executive Next, 54; Sir Chips Keswick, chair-man, Hambros Bank, 57; Mr Barry McGuigan, boxer, 36; Dame Alix Meynell, former senior civil servant. 94; Miss Libby Purves, writer and broadcaster, 47; Miss Elaine Stritch, actress and singer, 70.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: John Philip Kemble, actor, 1757; Louis-Auguste-Blanqui, socialist, 1805; Dame Clara Ellen Butt, contralto singer. 1872; John Ford (Sean Aloysius O'Fearna), film director, 1895; William Clark Gable, actor 1001. December 1895. actor, 1995). Whilath Cark Carbo actor, 1901. Deaths: Rene Descartes, scientist and philosopher, 1650; John Lemprière, classical scholar, 1824; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Godwin), author of Frankenstein, 1851; Piet Mondrian, abstract painter, 1944; Buster (Joseph Francis) Keaton, comedian, 1966. On this day: the first meeting of the US Supreme Court took place, 1790; Mount Ema, Sicily, began violent eruptions, 1865; the first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary was published, 1884; the first British labour exchanges opened, 1910; clothes rationing ended in Britain, 1949; Ronald Biggs, Irain robber, was arrested in Rio de Janeiro, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of Si Bride or Brigid of Khitare, Si Henry Morse, Si John of the Grating, Si Pionius, St Sciniol and St Sige-

TOMOREOW: Births: (Eleanor) Nell Gwynn, actress and mistress of Charles II, 1650; Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, statesman and diplomat, 1754; Henry Havelock El-lis, psychologist, 1859; James Augustine Joyce, anthor, 1882; Les (Leslie) Dawson, comedian, 1934. Deaths: Giovanni Piertuigi da Pulest-rina, composer, 1594; Bertrand Russell, third Earl Russell, philosopher,

bert III of Austrasia.

1970: Alistair Maclean, novelist, 1987; Bernard Braden, broadcaster, 1993; Fred Perry (Frederick John Perry), tennis-player, businessman and broadcaster, 1995; Donald Pleasance, actor, 1995; Gene Kelly (Eugene Curran Kelly), dancer and er, 1996. On this day; at the Battle of Mortimer's Cross, the Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians, 1461; Greece declared war on Turkey, 1878; bread rationing was intro-duced in Britain, 1917; in Uganda, Maj-Gen Idi Amin declared himself lo be absolute ruler, 1971; a mob in Dublin burned down the British Embassy, 1972. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of SI Adalbald of Ostrevant, St Joan de Lestonr The Martyrs of Ebsdorf and The

Lectures

TODAY National Gallery: Richard Stemp, "Cats (i): Barocci, The Madonna and Child with Saint Joseph and the Irfant Buptist ('La Madonna del Gatto')",

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "The Victorian Age of Revivals" British Museum: George Hart,

Temples of Egyptian Nubia", TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Sarab O'Brien Twohig. Commen Tale: Joseph Beuys , ipm. National Portrait Gallery: Mary

Connatty, "The Passport to Good Society: dress and etiquette at

Queen Victoria's court". 3pm.

Dinners Defence and Security Forum Lady Olga Maitland MP, President, Defence and Security Forum, hosted a dinner yesterday evening at the House of Lords, London SW1, spon-sored by the Earl of Lauderdale. Mr Terry Waite was the speaker.

When 30ft icicles hang by the wall The link between the Bishop of Liverpool

and home maintenance is out a strong one. unless David Sheppard finds himself doing more of it when he retires in October. But it's my home I'm thinking of; and something the Bishop said when he an-nounced his retirement this week. I mention home maintenance with

trepidation, knowing how dull it can be. Wheo I was a teeoager, my pareots spent many hours deep in conversation with their friends about central heating and loft iosulation, interspersed by occasinoal antiphons on the ments of anaglypta. I counted the minutes till I could slip upstairs with their sons to talk foothall and look at pictures of naked women. (Just imagine, though, if my parents and their friends had talked about football and naked womeo: I would have died.)

Now I am a home owner myself, the cupboards upstairs are full of tools, even though I try oot to talk about them too much. None of the tools was any use, however, when a damp patch appeared on the wall in the baby's room during the cold spell last month. The cause remained a mystery, until our neighbours reported a 30-foot icide hanging right down the side of the house.

My older children took me to see it when I got back from work. It was not a thin pointy one, but an uneven, ugly, wide thing. Tom, 12, pulled it, to see if it would move. Suddenly the thing broke off, and huge, heavy blocks of ice smashed down. They missed him by inches.

At the weekend, I leaned out of a topfloor window to discover the cause. An overflow pipe from the water tank was going drip pause drip pause drip. Those lazy, off-hand drops of water could have killed my son.

faith preason sponded, particularly in this century, and so the icicle has stretched across the Irish Sea_ to Liverpool in particular.

Paul Handley considers the formidable Liverpool . partnership of Derek Worlock, who died last year, and David Sheppard, who this week announced his retirement.

David Sheppard was talking about the sectarian hatred that existed in Liverpool within living memory. "Don't trust Mrs Murphy: she's a Catholic"; "Don't play with the children part door that're laws." When the children next door: they're Jews". When he and Derek Worlock, his Roman Catholic counterpart, arrived in the city, they were both told, "Things have calmed down; don't rock the boat." What existed, however, was not unity and friendliness. but rather what Sheppard calls "polite separate development". Sheppard and Worlock decided not to rock the boat exactly, but to push it towards the shore. The boat has swayed a few times. But, after years

of steady pressure, it is now beached. What was impressive was the quiet, determined way Sheppard and Worlock operated. They ensured that they acted as one: speaking together, campaigning together, even writing together. The only thing they weren't able to do was quit

together: Derek Worlock died last year. This is where the icicle comes in. Irish Catholics have suffered for centuries from lazy, off-hand drips of cruelty at the hands of the English. They have re-

The easiest solution to an icide is towart for a thaw. The problem is, though, that the thaw may be a long time coming, in the meantime, the icicle is damaging the building. Another option is to try to pull it down: quick, but dangerous, as my son discovered. Sheppard and Worlock found a third way to apply a gentic bot steady warmth.

I used to think that the hatred and fear

expressed by whole communities was simply individual hatred and fear duplicated. I now see it as almost a different clement. Whereas individual animosity can melt quite quickly when warmed by repeated contact with the object of that hostility, group hatred works as a sort of permafrost. When enough people believe the same thing and act in the same way. those beliefs and that behaviour become part of a community's story, to be retold

to successive generations. In such circumstances, to wait for a thaw is vain; to attempt force is dangerous, as the British government found 25 years ago this week. The only solution that I can see working is when the true leaders of opposing communities, leaders who have the respect of their own people, agree to work together lowards unity and peace. To be successful, they need a partner of similar stature whom they can trust; they need persistence; and they need time.

Because of Sheppard's surprising lack of preferment, he and Worlock had that last, precious element. Few other leaders do. Mandela and de Klerk did: Arafat and Begin didn't Elsewhere, no partnership exists. Sheppard and Worlock have pulled a city together. But who is there in Ireland who will do such a thing?

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* THE INDEPENDENT

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Forget the lectures. Young people need facts

hat decisions are young people qual-ified to make? On sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and voting, our attitudes are often inconsistent. This week young people were told by politicians what to think about Noel Gallagher's claim that taking drugs is like "hav-ing a cup of tea". They are always being told by politicians not to have sex, although politicians themselves seem to enjoy it in all sorts of prohibited circumstances. And this week another group of politicians asked for their votes, although under-18s don't have them.

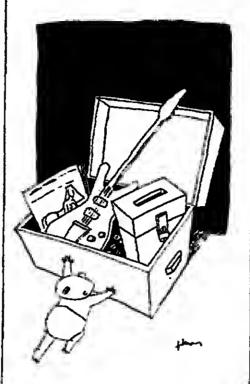
Long ago, tea was considered a threat to social order. Now it is the drug of choice for the over-sixties. More recently, civilisation as we know it was threatened by rock 'n' roll. Now the generation that was corrupted by it is running the country, although there is a dissonance between the rebelliousness of youth and the conservatism of maturity. This year we are likely to have a prime minister who once snarled Mick Jagger lyrics in purple loons, but who speaks winningly of strong families. He may not have done drugs, but he surely knows a lot of people who did.

It is on drugs that the gap between what people actually think and what it is considered proper to say is greatest. Both Noel Gallagher and Brian Harvey, the East 17 singer, provided an instant self-rebuttal service of which the political parties would be proud. Mr Gallagher did not actually retract what he said, but when someone is "glad to have started a debate" you can hear the clatter of backpedalling. Clare Short and the Liberal Democrat conference have both called for a debate and look what happened to them. Mr Harvey was not in such a strong position. Despite a 180-degree U-turn within hours, he was sacked by the rest of his clean-living band.

The gap is rapidly becoming unbridgeable, and it cannot be long now before the possession of some controlled drugs is decriminalised. Of all attitudes on social issues, views on the legalisation of cannabis have undergone the most dramatic transformation of the past decade. Since 1983, support for legalisation has gone up from 12 to 31 per cent, with a majority now in favour among under-25s.

The Independent has long argued that cannabis should be legalised and licensed, and removed from the chutches of organised crime. We might draw the line at commercial advertising (imagine the slogan, "Just Say Yes"), but our main reservation about cannabis is that it makes people boring. The same argument probably applies to ecstasy - but, as we report today, the political hysteria about the drug is inhibiting research. It may be that regular users are prone to depressive illnesses, but not enough is known about the long-term effects.

Objective information is the key, and our view is that, on the whole, young people are quite capable of making sophisticated deci-



sions if they are given the facts. In spite of terrible tragedies like the death of Leah Betts. young people will mostly make rational choices for themselves and attempts at total prohibition will generally fail. Young people know that some drugs are dangerous, that injecting is not a good idea, and that the people who get into "hard" drugs usually have other problems. In fact, most young people are probably better informed about drugs than most politicians. They know that politicians speak with forked tongue on this subject, and they can spot the illogicality of banning some boring drugs and not others (alcohol, for example, which causes more death and dismay than any other drug available). What young people want from their elders is not lectures on subjects they know little about but advice based on experience: about how to avoid getting emotionally screwed up, about education and job choices. Pop stars may not be the best role models, but at least they speak from personal experience. And most people are well aware of their fal-libility. We all remember an earlier cup of tea, when Boy George said he preferred one to sex. but later admitted he was lying.

The big question is: at what age should people be allowed to make responsible decisions? And the answer for drugs is the same as for most other things. Eighteen is the age at which we become self-governing adults, with some flexibility downwards under parental supervision in some things and some anomalies upwards, such as the ban on being a parliamentary or local council candidate until 21.

Helerosexual sex and smoking at 16, and driving at 17, are the main exceptions. These are untidy evidence of our inconsistent attitudes. Smoking, like marriage, should of course only be allowed with parental consent between 16 and 18. After that, it shouldn't be allowed at all. And men should not be allowed to drive cars or motorbikes until they are 21; women, who are much more responsible, should be permitted to drive from, let's say, 14.

As for sex, the formal age of consent is much less important than information and education, not just about sex but about relationships. bringing up children and self-esteem. And to put the moral panic in perspective, there has been no change in the rate of pregnancies among under-16s since the Seventies.

We see no reason, however, why the "age of majority" should generally be brought down from 1S, and so we do not support the Liberal Democrat plea to give the vote to 16year-olds. The right to vote is perhaps the most important badge of adulthood and it should stay right where it is, marking the move from dependence on one's parents, to trying to make some sense of the world on your own. How many of us, a decade or so further on, think we are any better at it now?

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Toyota warning means Britain must choose to join Europe or join the Third World

Sir: It is with no surprise that I hear the news that Toyota are no longer going to invest in Britain if we do not join the European single currency (report, 30 January). This is the sort of thing I feared would happen if we stood shivering and complaining on the brink of full European membership.

The reason that so much Japanese industry has invested in Britain in recent years is that we are in the EU. If we do not commit ourselves fully and properly, Toyota and other Japanese companies will withdraw from this country, leaving us with a

greatly depleted manufacturing base, not to mention vastly reduced exports and a large (or even larger) balance of payments deficit. Cheap manufacturing hases are becoming available all the time in Eastern Europe. It is essential to make our membership of the EU full and solid if we are not to become a Third

PHILIP BAKER Ottery St Mary, Devon

World nation.

Sir: It comes as no surprise that the federalists have called upon the

vast increase in unemployment and a opinions of the Toyota chairman to support their cause, nor that they ignore the fact that Norway has enjoyed an increase in inward investment since refusing to join the

> However this affair brings in sharper focus the decision the British people now face. Even were it to be true, which it is not, that withdrawal from the European Union would cutail financial penalties, are they prepared to see their birthrighl and freedoms treated as commodities lo be sold, and to see the levers of fiscal control pass out of the hands of their

elected representatives for ever? Car makers may come and go hut our democratie system is worth a million

COLINBULLEN National Membership Secretary UK Independence Party Tonbridge,

Sir: Sir Teddy Taylor's Article "Beware! VAT on food" (29 January), though broadly accurate, is misleading in one notable omission -we already have VAT on food in the UK. Most snacks, biscuits,

confectionery, fruit juices and soft drinks incur VAT at 17.5 per cent. which was not imposed by Brussels hut under the present government. Other EU countries tax these products at lower rates.

Furthermore, the current EU legal position (Directive 92/77/EEC) was agreed by EU finance ministers voting in unanimity in 1992. This directive was signed on behalf of the UK government by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont MP. PATRICIA MURIAGH London SE11

Hunger strikers

have come out of the crisis over the

asylum seekers on a second-hand

American prison ship. That would

locked up in Rochester prison.

detainces are not about the

Government has decided not to detain

have been even more awful than being

However, hunger strikes by asylum

fact of detention. The vast majority of

detained asylum seekers have not

been charged with any crime. There is

no way in which the legality of their

detention can be tested in the courts.

and there is no limit on the time for

which they may be held. The Home

Office refuses to give written reasons

for detaining them. They feel a deep

Sir: As there is no vote in admitting

Hong Kong, your leading article "Our

duty to give a home to Empire's orphans" (30 January) will fall oo the

deaf ears of the present Conservative

My organisation lobbied for this very cause some eight years ago and was given an emphatic "no" by Peter

Lloyd, the then minister at the Home Office. However, Roy Hattersley,

shadow Home Secretary at that time.

in his reply to our lobbying, said:

"Labour shall give Hong Kong residents of Indian descent, who

some 5,000 stateless Indians from

M LOUISÉ PIROUET

Charter '87

been brought before any court or

rights denied

hunger strikers is that the

Why we should hail Swampy and friends as patriotic heroes

Sir: Your brief editorial nod (30 for you to label these anarchic January) to the underground protests on the route of the A30, with its grudging admiration, fails lo give proper recognition to the issues involved.

Swampy and his fellow tunnellers would be hailed as heroes if their passive and ingenious resistance to the road-building sickness were seen not as anarchic mischief but as a spiriled defence of our land, our country. They have been putting their lives in danger to protect a strip of ordinary England from being lost for ever to tarmac, exhaust fumes and the inescapable roar of traffic. BEN BYDAWELL Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire

Sir: You have made a serious error in giving so much prominence to the tunnellers protesting against the A30 road development.

I am sure that if the under-sheriff had overstepped the accepted boundaries of behaviour, the punnellers and their supporters would be among the first to invoke the law. But, because they do not accept the proper planning decisions achieving by following all the lengthy procedures established by Parliament, we as taxpayers have to

pay the bill for them to be evicted. One cannot pick which laws to obey and which to defy. It is nonsense

Bottle-fed, but still

Sir: Dr Laurence Villard (letter 28

January) says his children eat their

greens because they were breast-fed

and never had bottled babyfood. I

bave a son, now a strapping 23-year-

always has. I still recall hearing him,

Unlike Dr Villard's children, he

was bottle-fed and ale only prepared

babyfoods, after making his views on

However, like Dr Villard, we did, and

still do, have meak together where

I suspect, however, that some

possible, and they are still something

children are just faddy by nature, and neither Dr Villard's remedies nor

difference. I should know - I was one.

mine would make the least scrap of

Sir: I have always thought there was

something n little odd about my 14-

newspaper has enlightened me: he

likes all vegetables except paranipa,

Cadet Force field days are meat and

and activities such as Combined

drink to him. I fear for his future -

year-old son. Reading your

will he be a social outcast?

VIVIENNE LEYLAND

Walsall,

West Midlands

old, who also eats his greens, and

at the age of four, haranguing a

friend because she did not like

my laboriously prepared home-

purced dinners abundantly clear.

salad.

of an occasion.

KIRSTEN ELLIOTT

eats his greens

protesters beroes. JM MURPHY

Sir: Your report on the latest Social Trends publication (30 January) states that "the British remain stubbornly wedded to their cars". This implies that car dependency is something deep in the British psyche. There is no need to be so fatalistic.

As you report elsewhere on the same day, one of the reasons car use has increased in the last fifteen years is that buses have become more expensive, more unreliable and less frequent as a result of deregulation. Car usage depends in part on decisions made by millions of individuals, but in part too on decisions made by government. One reason the Dutch cycle so much, for example, is because a Dutch government decided in the 1970s to improve provision for cyclists. STEPHEN TINDALE

Director The Green Alliance London WC2

Sir: The under-sheriff of Devon may be right to say that he had no powers to negotiate with the A30 protesters, but he was wrong to call their demand for a new public inquiry into



Bicycles in Amsterdam: How government policy can wean us off our dependency on the car Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

the scheme "totally unacceptable" and "totally unrealistie" (reports, 27, 28 January).

This scheme, the Newbury by-pass, and all the other road-building proposals in the road programme were "justified" by reference to the impossibly high long-term traffic

forecasts made in 1989. The Government recently decided to support the Road Traffie Reduction Bill. Logic demands that it should now reassess the whole of its road ргодгатте. STEPHEN PLOWDEN London NW1

Hint from the Government: get out of that state school

more cruel aspects of selection and choice in our education system. I recently came across a copy of the

Government's guide to its supported places scheme, which funds private education for selected individuals who could not otherwise afford it. The front of the pamphlet suggested some criteria for parents to consider.

As I have a five-year-old son at school I was horrified to see, top of the list: "Is your child intelligent?" Does this mean that if my son is intelligent, the state system will probably fail him? The suggestion eems to be: "Get him out now

Sir: Marjorie Waliace of SANE

(letter, 30 January) over-simplifies

the situation in our mental health

problems highlighted in the recent

Kings Fund report does not lie in

In Lambeth, Southwark and

Lewisham in south London, acute

in the last few years. The closure of

beds which housed the old long-stay

population, most of whom have been

the asylums has cut the back-ward

admission beds have remained stable

services. The solution to the

opening more beds per se.

They will then become exceedingly before too much damage is done.

> And the corollary, too obvious for members of the Government to need to say at all: "Do not suggest expanding the public school which I used to attend, because this could alter its character."

For the last forty years, size, and with it bureaucracy, have increased steadily in secondary schools. If the Government's idea of a reward for success is a further increase in size, it it surprising that those who joined the teaching profession 30 or 40 years ago react by making for the exit? London E17

in asylums or we can go forwards by

creating high-support units in the community that offer the chance of

long-term rehabilitation. The second

option is, of course, more expensive

and my fear is that no political party

Marjorie Wallace's demand for

is offering to make available the

path that we abandoned over 30

resources.

years ago.
TONY GOSS

London SE15

Sir: In response to your leading article on education (27 January), I draw your attention to one of the

large and impersonal and thus less The next thought was that my son's

access to a "superior" education system is dependent on his intelligence, whereas for 99 per cent of private school pupils it is merely the size of the parents' wallet.

How can we continue to justify the privatisation of standards in education according to wealth?
ANDREW BARRINGTON Harrow, Middlesex

Sir: "Popular schools which are oversubscribed will be given the resources to expand." ("Reading standards at low point", 27 January). This dreadful Conservative promise always omits the inevitable sequel:

More beds no cure-all for crisis in the mental health services

accommodation in the community.

the candidates for the back wards

of suitable facilities for this group

which no longer exist. The evidence

that acute beds are blocked, leading

to intulerably high occupancy levels.

to this problem. We can either go

There are, of course, two solutions

backwards and reopen long-stay beds

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.ok) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge ampublished letters.

suggests that it is because of the lack

However, what was not planned for

was the "new long-stay" population -those who formerly would have been

resettled into supported

would otherwise become stateless, a right of abode in the United Kingdom and eventually nationality." Since then the present shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has given a commitment, during his visit in Hong Kong, to grant the stateless Indians the right of abode and eventual British citizenship if desired.

Our campaigning for the stateless Indians will bear fruit if a Labour povernment is returned. TARAKUMAR MUKHERJEE President

Consederation of Indian Organisations (UK) London SEI

Sir: It is fortunate for certain members of the Cahinet that the present government was not in power when their grandparents landed in this country. W K SMITH High Peak, Derbyshire

What gospel?

Sir: The Virgin Birth, a Second Coming, miracles - all superstitious and anachronistic beliefs, according more beds could lead us back down a in the Rev Kenneth Wilson (letter, 29 January). Would he care to inform your readers what he understands by the "real gospel message", and on what he bases his Good News? Certainly not the Scriptures. Professor D G BARNSLEY Tugby: Leicestershire

LETTER from THE EDITOR

itting behind a huge glass sereen in a darkened Proom, surrounded by plates of half-eaten sandwiehes, warming heers and fetid colleagues, I have been staring for hours at you, I mean "you" collectively, you the readers. Yes, The Independent has fallen for the political and marketing fashion of the hour. the Focus Group. Over two nights, we walched sample groups of readers and nonreaders pore over the paper, deride this page, cheer that one and answer questions such as: "If The Independent was a person/car, what sort of person would it be?" (John Cleese or Angus Deayton and a Saah, or

VW Golf apparently.) Mock at your peril: this sort of consenting voyeurism has helped give birth to New Labour and informs the thinking of everyone from magazine publishers to hair-conditioner conditions of detention, but about the manufacturers. As a result, I am pleased to annouoce, important improvements will follow shortly. The Independent is to change its name to "The Moderately Inoffensive"; the eagle will go, to be replaced by a cuddly pink puppy; and all our papers will come in future with valuable nutrients and added absorbent qualities.

> We report on our business pages today about the possi-bility of unearned lucre accruing to the policy-holders of Scottish Amicable, as a result of the bid by Abbey National. Having missed out on every such windfall, I became excited: my only financial policy is to bank, invest and insure anly with Scottish companies and the more Scottish the better. This time, I was sure, I had to be a winner. Nat so. After scrahbling in the the desk, I seem to be insured with its tougher-minded but lesser-known rival. Seortish Misanthropie.

Few issues have divided our readers quite as much recently as the Royal Yacht, which I am by and large against and quite a few of you are for. Letters fiery, thoughtful, sarcastic and witty have been flying around, and some of the hest have been printed over the past few days. But none was as straight to the point and as startling as

that from Peter Boffin, nf the Isle of Wight, who makes the case for the new yacht to be publicly funded - and then continues: "I understand the cost is likely to be some £60m or, roughly, £1 per man, woman and child in the population. I enclose my cheque for £2.00 as the contribution from my wife and myself." That's putting your money where your views are, and I have sent Mr Boffin's cheque to the Ministry of Defence, as requested. Perhaps this may be the faint stirrings of a new civic movement. voluntary taxation. For those who wish to follow suit, the address is: Secretary of State's

"The Independent" is to change its name to The Moderately Inoffensive'. The eagle will go, replaced by a cuddly pink puppy

Private Office. MoD, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

A cheerful lunch vesterday with Richard Branson, who is negotiating with Chris Evans for a radio show and is preparing a whole family of new products, from perfumes to jeans while planning his next attempt ai round-the-world balloon-ing, yields the following story. We were gossiping about jour-nalism and I wandered whether Branson, who began with a student magazine, had ever considered gning into newspapers? As it happened, said Branson, on the day after The Independent had been launehed, he had been approached by a friend and asked if he would consider buying it. He pondered, scrutinised it and replied that ... yes, he would. But he hadn't realised it was far sale. No, said his friend after a small pause he meant would Branson consider buying a copy of The Independent.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

It is a relief to be out - Ellenor Hutson, 16, from Colchester, emerg ing after five days in a tunnel dug by protesters trying to stop work on the .430 road improvement scheme near Excter

The English have an incredible appetite for serfdom. They are unique in that they abolished slavery 150 years before they abolished serfdom - Norman Stone, retiring Professor of Modern History at Oxford University

Sleaze is more than a hurid headline. It signifies the total collapse of public confidence in government and all its dealings - Derek Foster, shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Every decent Essex household has a garden gnome. Where I once had a beautiful porch, I have Lady Thatcher on the right and John Major on the left. Peering through the window is Kinnock – Teresa Gorman, Tory MP

One of those hassles in life is that no one understands the difference between a viscount and a lord - Viscount Thurso We often deride the popular press for being simplistic and vulgar, but it is so often an accurate barometer of the nation's mood. I shall certainly keep taking the tabloids - Lord Taylor of Warwick I am appalled by the flat case with which my reputation as a scholar

and my integrity as a human being is impugned - Professor Patricia Williams, of Columbia University, New York, this year's much-criticised BBC Reith Lecturer

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Swampy's University of Action

He emerged blinking and smiling after a week underground – hero, educator and the nation's favourite activist. By **Louise Jury**

ing into camera lights brighter than daylight after 167 hours

Was it worth it? "Absolutely. It's the only way to get a voice. If I wrote a letter to my MP would I have achieved all this?" He gestured at the media scrum hanging on his every word. "I don't think so."

At 9.30pm on Thursday, nine days ago, Swampy, Animal, Muppet Dave. Ian and John dived into the labyrinth of tunnels at Fairmile near Honiton, Devnn, to begin their protest at the proposed A30 extension scheme.

When 23-year-old Swampy, (real name David Needs) became the last to give himself up after spending a week 35ft deep in the red Devon soil, he

felt a point had been made. He was right: DBFO -Design Build Finance and Operate - does not yet trip protesters' anger at this government road-funding arrangement has begun to inform discussions. Introduced two years ago, it means the new A30 road is being financed and constructed privately by a consortium called Connect which will be repaid by taxpayers over 30 years based on the number of cars using the road. It is a principle that the protesters claim will encourage car use. Moreover, how much it will actually cost is a commercial secret. Some estimates put the final hill

From time to time the contents of th

that straightforward demonstrations would not he ennugh. The enormous turn-onts against the Newbury bypass had highlighted the problem of

environmental destruction and sparked a dehate nn roads. Only something even more dramatic would arouse interest in a hureaucratic road-funding system no one understood, particularly when played out in far-off rural Devon. Enter Swampy. Arriving in

the county two years ago, he set up camp and began to dig. "He just loved tunnels," said a fellow protester. "He lives and breathes the protest," added Karen, a regular at the New Fountain Inn in Whimple near the Allercombe and Fairmile camps where the small, softly spoken vegan would enjoy a drink with Anna, his student girlfriend from Exeter.

Digging like a mole at what became known as the "university of action" often left him politely remove his muddy boots before entering the pub. So quiet and polite, he was determined in argument and while never completely winning all the locals round, they all liked him. Landlord Paul Mallett even allowed him to stay at the puh one particularly cold night. "You'd never worry about him nicking things," he

Local popularity turned to national stardom. When The Independent first talked to Swampy last October, no nne outside the Green movement

SEND A BABY BOX

TO BOSNIA THIS

The protesters calculated had heard of him. But last week, as he dug deeper and deeper, spurning all the bailiffs' appeals to come out, thwarting progress nn removing the protest camp, he came to represent a struggle against roads which has won widespread public sympathy.

When the bulldozers tore through Twyfnrd Down, the men and women who flung themselves in their path were seen as eco extremists, sentimental at best, more likely antidemocratic, anti-authoritarian crusties. But as the march of the buildozer progressed, more and more of Middle England joined

So in Devou, even villagers who strongly support the new road, having long despaired of the dangerous bends on the old, seem sympathetic to the young protesters. "Swampy's made people think," Mr Mallett said.

The conventional approach seems to have failed," said a nurse from Exeter whn was "I've never taken part in protests and I'm too old to be doing what these youngsters are doing. But they've got my

f the members of the public calling the dozens of radio phone-ins where the matter has been discussed this week are anything to go by, even the protesters who are singing nn the dole are nnt universally condemned. One company director said he paid thousands of pounds in taxes and VAT and was perfectly happy

for some of that money to go to those who had drawn attention to what was happening.

Yet the protest camp was illegal: the Under Sheriff of Devon has had court orders to evict the trespassers from three A30 camps - Allercombe, Trollheim and Fairmile - since October. Allercombe went first, in a

cleverly timed eviction on 27 December when many protesters had returned to families for Christmas. Trollheim was next of the first anniversary of work beginning at Newbury, when the Under Sheriff knew that many of the Devon protesters would be at the Berkshire rally.

He moved into Fairmile midevening on Thursday last week while many of the protesters were in the Volunteer pub in nearby Ottery St Mary for a dole-cheque-day drink.

Only the moon lit the way as 100 men dressed all in hlack stepped soundlessly in each other's footsteps through the field to start the Pairmile evictinn. At the head of the police, security guards and bailiffs, the local gamekeeper, chosen for his knowledge of the terrain, carefully placed his hand on his hard belinet. As one, the line froze. A barn owl flew over. The men moved nn.

It almost worked. But as they neared the heavily fortified camp above the equally welldefended labyrinth of tunnels,

they were spotted. The cry went up - "Aruga!" - the noise used to signal trouble on submarines. Protesters who had been hearing their staple diet of baked beans over a camp fire leapt np and ran.

On the site, the eviction force was laying ladders to reach the dry moat - the outer ring of the campaigners' defences. They were in. But the warning created enough of a delay to allow Swampy, Dave, Ian, John only woman - down the tunnels while others shinned up the trees. Battle had begun.

Trained climbers were brought in to shin the trees. plucking the tree house protesters off one by one. The last, 21-year-old Craig, had been a security guard at Newbury who swapped sides, he claimed, in disgust at how the protesters were treated. He came down, he said, when it became clear the authorities intended starv-

But underground, food supplies were not a problem. After months of planning, candles, food, even books and hedding, were all in place. Starving the Fairmile Five not was not an option - at least not for weeks.

ing him out.

The tunnellers risked more than empty stomachs. They were adamant that their elaborate underground, fortified network was safe. But the tunnels alarmed the Under Sheriff and his professional black- remaining three while protestclad tunnellers known as Thunderbirds brought in to shore them up. As the soil dried out. the risk of collapse increased dramatically.

Although none of the protesters believed Swampy and the other four wanted to he martyrs, the risk, the bailiff implied, was certainly there.

tricked into reaching out for a newspaper said to have his photograph on the cover. Within hours, fearful for the

health of "Animal" - the 16year-old Ellenor Hutson from Colchester, Essex - work began on chipping her free from a concrete block known as a "lock-on" to which she had chained herself.

his intelligent schoolgirl wooed all in sight on Tuesday when she explained in her articulate environmental patter: "I am a peaceful protester protecting the environment. I was arrested and treated as a criminal while the perpetrators of violence on that environment are financially rewarded by nur government at the expense of the taxpayer." One newspaper offered her a a column but she

declined. The wait went on for the

ers outside kept up morale with music and a programme of good-humoured "fluffication"tickling the security guards with feather dusters. And so on Thursday with the previous underground protest record of six days broken, the siege began to draw to an end...

Muppet Dave, so named in was jour days before the after his dog but whose real name is David Howarth, left his tunnel at 11.15am is The state old huilder from Males. men sinking a shaft to break in heneath the steel door where he was hiding. Ian Williamson came out at 3nm after negotiating a cigarette, a cup of coffee and a chance to talk to the press before heing carted off for police questioning.

Only Swampy remained. The chief tunneller admitted it would be days before they could reach him in the tightly fitting "worm hole" he was still digging, disposing of the soil down a shaft beneath him. But with the A30 Action Group growing increasingly worried. two members spoke to him through the authority's communications line underground and Swampy agreed he would come out.

Telling the Sheriff's men to arrange for the press to greet him, so he could hammer home his message, he gathered his belongings into a Tesco bag, Swamp, and emerged for a cup of coffee heroes.

and a phone call to his mum. sticks remained planted in the ground while the Under Sheriff's officers searched the underground labyrinth, niaking sure no one could be left inside. That work could take a week and then the land will be handed back to Connect and the last of the nees will fall as

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road-building starts.

The consoftium had known when it won the confract last would have to be evicted so they have always been prepared to wait. Security costs were huilt into their confidential contract with the Highways Agency. The £500,000 costs of policing by Devog and Cornwall officers will be borne by the Force itself.

Many of the protesters are

now going home for a rest with their families. John Woodhams has two teenage children and a mortgage so is returning to his building trade. Animal may go on m a demo at Guildford, but she has to decide soon on taking up a sixth-form place kept

open for her.

The tunnellers may be in demand at Manchester where the controversial airport extension is looking set to be another environmental battleground.

Meanwhile, as one of the Under Sheriff's men admitted: Swampy and Co are cult

jo brand's week Australia Day was celebrated cannot remember the Ten Commandments and it seems

WINTER FOR ONLY £30 Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone for winter. But far an impoverished mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child sale from infection, these basic essentials inside one of our holy boxes would mean the world. It would also mean that someone cares - somewhere somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child. Children's Aid Direct has delivered baby hoxes full of essential items directly into the hands of 33,000 mothers in Bosnia - many of whom will be living in war-damaged housing and in very basic conditions this winter. Please, if you possibly can, send a baby box to Bosnia this winter and help a mother keep her baby safe. Just call us on 0990 600610 or complete the coupon below. Feel free to send a message of support to a Bosnian mother - well put it in your baby box for you. What's inside? With love from a friend... 18 nappies (100% cotton-muslin) Cold 0990 600610 now to tell us how many body boxes you would like to send. 200 happy liners OR please complete and return this form, 6 safety pins 1 baby grow
3 pairs plastic baby pants Please send _____ baby box(es) at £30 each on my behalf, 100 baby tyipes in a tub l enclose a cheque for £ _____ (total amount) made payable to Children's Aid Direct * zinc and easter oil OR please debit £ _ from my 🗔 Viso 🔲 Access 🦳 Switch 3 mild baby soops 500ml baby shampeo. 250-305ml baby lotion Last three digits of Switch cord no. / / Switch issue no. / 400g block washing soap feeding bowl and 2 spoon teething ring breastfeeding leaflet All inclosed in a re-usable waterproof box.

il you would like to send a mossage to a Boselan madian, please send it

with your dissipant and we will put it in you bully box. Please send

ter: Children's Aid Direct, Sept 508, FREEPOST, Receiving, RST 1880.

on televisinn this week with a few Australian films and programmes which were introduced from some hall which appeared to be full of drunken blakes, most of whom were, I assume. Australian and looked as frightening as the characters whn then popped up in Mad Max. The compere for the evening was the ubiquitous Jonathan Coleman, he of Virgin Radio and beer ads. He kicked off the evening by running us through some very basic bistory and mentioned the day that the British claimed Australia for their own, passing comment as he went, that it was not a great day for the Aboriginals. "Aha," I thought, "he is going to acknowledge the suffering those people went through. But, having made that statement, he just went on to say, "hut enough of that" and moved on. Well, I'm sure the indigenous peoples of

wonder they feel that no one gives a toss. Oh dear, two-thirds of

Church of England vicars

was so eloquently and

profoundly tackled. No

Australia must be so pleased

that their entire tragic history

that some of them can only remember two, which include Thou shalt not commit adultery". Given the "randy vicar" stereotype, which has been with us for some time now, they must obviously be thinking about it a lot. It is a little worrying that something which should really be imprinted on their minds has out. It's not as if 10 is a particularly large number either. A former Archbishop of Canterbury remarked that they were just "caught on the hop". No wonder we're all falling apart morally if this mob can't even keep the most basic of God's rules in their heads.

I received a very strange letter from Brixton police station this week informing me - "Mr Joe Bryant" (who says the police aren't very good at spelling, or telling what sex you are, for that matter?) - that since my flat was burgled in 1991, there have been "developments". This letter was posted last July and had sat on the floor of my old flat since then. Needless to say, I'm having

trouble contacting the

detective in question, but I am intrigued. The flat was burgled while I was in hospital suffering an allergic reaction to hair colour and doing a very reasonable impression of a 60-year-old Vietnamese wnman with a very big face. Are my video and answerphone coming home to me after all this time? Now that's what I call a fast clear-up rate.

Wonder if I've got enough time to lose some weight before Princess Diana's gear oes up for auction. I don't think Pil.go for the Galliano dress that looks like a nightie, because it looks like a nightie. It makes me roar With innohiter to see the glitterati so accepting, if not downright adoring, of the Princess turning up in

something not unlike my mum used to wear under her proper dress in the Sixties. Us stout birds will just have to wait until Fergie puts her old rags up for auction. I suppose I could go for that puffball dress and use it to wear to the shops to scare off schoolchildren.

in an attempt to recruit new nurses, advertisements to pull them in are going to take a warts-and-all approach. I must admit previous adverts have been a bit soft-focus and tended to concentrate rather too much on the "angel" aspect of nursing, which doesn't really exist. How can you remain an angel when most of your day is spent doing unpleasant and rather undignified things to bits of people most of us normally

don't see? I suspect that the huge numbers of individuals leaving nursing may well be something to do with the changing role of women, allied to the increased selfishness of our culture. Looking after people just ain't what it used to be, especially given, no doubt, that patients are so much more demanding these days.

Poor old Miss Universe is expanding at a rate unacceptable to all. She has put on nearly four stone over Christmas and is seriously in danger of having her title removed. So what has gone wrong? You can't blame her, really. With the title under her tightening belt, it must have been tempting to go on a damn good binge over the festive season. I put it down to ennoi. Anyone with half a brain must get bored to death being wheeled round talking cobblers and smiling for all you're worth. Let's hope Miss Universe has got a few vitamins into her body kick-started the old grey matter and realised what a ridiculous, antiquated and belittling (sorry) farce she has been involved in Sec you at the women's group.

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Children's Aid

anorak attack

We do not value our anuses as highly as we do our gobs and our genitals

david aaronovitch

hy is it that no-one wants to be anal? Of Frend identified in child development (giving rise to the shorthand ways of describing different types nf people), only the anal has a really bad reputation. When did you last hear someone complaining that a friend or spouse was so "phallic" or so "oral"? Both of these might be considered to be compliments, carrying with them either the hint of thrusting sexuality and interesting tumescence, or a capacity for sensual appreciation, Anal, however means focused on the lower bowel, retentive, obsessive.

It could be that this is a simple associative problem caused by Freud's choice of words. This argument runs that we do not value our anuses as highly as we do our gobs and our genitals, and this disregard has become attached to those characteristics linked to anality. Had the great Viennese and his disciples decided that retention was to be linked to the phallus, all film stars and great people would happily admit to weekend trainspotting and

silver-polishing. Alas, anybody working in the field of psychometric testing will know that an entirely different descriptor still produces the same aversion. Almost everybody who is tested wants to be a "leader", an "innovator", or even, at a push, a "monitor" Few want to be "completers". The consolatory sentiment that every good team needs a completer will rarely help. Why does it have to be me?"

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is the usual answer. We are terrified of boredom and of being boring. The only true path is that of the creator, the conjuror of hright lights. Extreme examples of leadership or of innovation are feared or admired - extreme examples of completion, of seeing the thing through, are considered

laughable or contemptible. Professor Les Woodcock. who this week completed a 22-year-long calculation, is one of the ultimate completers. Since 1975 (the year the Vietnam War ended, Steve Harley was No 1 - and there was a Labour government), Les had been trying to discover whether hexagonal close-packed

lattices were less stable than their crystal face-centred cousins. The answer, released this week, turned out to be triangle S = 0.005R. But even Woodcock admits that Woodcock's Solution was "not

particularly useful as such". Les now joins the pantheon nf obstinate problem solvers, whose other deities include John Machin (who in 1706 calculated the value of pi to 100 decimal points) and William Sacks (who in 1853 took it to 707, the last 179 nf which were wrong).

Is this a sad perd, then worthy of comparison with German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer (who insisted on lecturing at exactly the same time as his more famous contemporary, Hegel, and thus for several years addressed an entirely empt lecture theatre)? And is this presumably a man whose company at the dinner party is to be avoided at all costs ("and what exactly does the triangle represent, Les?").

Not a hit of it. For

Professor Woodcock does not turn out to be some crepuscular academic. seguestered from human society by the nature of his obsessions. Photographs do not show something soft with thick specs, blinking in the unexpected light of the day, but a fit, happy and young-looking chap. In addition to solving this nearly useless problem, he has also found time to help run a small sheep farm in the Dales, parent seven ehildren and fill a place in his local pub's trivia quiz team. Les has a pretty full life. He is normal. This may be the most

frightening aspect of it all. Nicola Horlick was bad enough. She made a million, was bloody good at her job, bad five kids, was very bright and, above all, was fantastically well organised. I am not even sure that her management of money made her more useful than Les. But she must have been anal. Compared with her and Les. the rest of us are chaotic anticompleters who see nothing through, who cannot master simple pieces of technology, add without calculators, read instruction manuals, make wills or listen to pension advice without falling asleep. We are carried by those we mock - the accountants and the anoraks. Up ours!

Norman's wisdom and Turkey's delight

by James Cusick

n historians still matter? Oxford's departing Profes-sor of Modern History, Norman Stone, surrounded by the selfcreated chaos that followed the announcement he was leaving the dreaming spires for Turkish academe, believes that without history, "it would be as though there were an earth for everything rather than having a live wire somewhere." The electrical metaphor makes perfect sense. But throw in Stone himself as the live wire, the enfant terrible, the thorn in Oxford's crown whose baccha-

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nalian high-wire act and unique form of popularism has been in media demand since he tonk over Oxford's history helm in 1984, and there should be mourning that the British historical circus is losing one of At his brime, with the tele-phone continually ringing, his answering machine spewing

out urgent appeals from the Thames to the Bosphorus, an era is ending. He has just written a newspaper article about what is best about Britain. So what did he say? "I can't quite remember, I wrote it last night." A Sunday newspaper, as we speak, is being dispatched another epistle from the gospel according to Stone. A taxi is ordered to drive him to Eton, where he will pick up his son Rupert, and take them both to the British Museum where he will be interviewed by yet another paper. Newsnight phones. Another part of the BBC has just left. A Turkish journalist wants 10 minutes on

the telephone. Stone, aged 55, and looking far better than he should if his reputation is correct, has the ability to laugh amid this fourth-estate idolatry. He delivers yet another appropriate quotation - probably translated from his knowledge of eight languages - to capture the moment. His appointment to head a Russian-Turkish institute in Ankara will only take him away from Oxford for four months of the year. England is not completely waving goodbye to Professor Stone. So he laughs: "Only when your feet are in the stirrup, should you

tell the truth to the horse. As part of his valedictory to Oxford, Stone has ebosen his final days for an impassioned attack on the institute that has been the vehicle for both his fame and notoriety. Graduate teaching is poor, dons are poorly paid. His shorthand is more precise: "Oxford is losing it." The same condensed speech is used in describe his views on Oxford's chancellor, Lord Jenkins. "I see him as having malevolent neutrality. I want bold gestures, but he is, well, a safe pair of hands." Stone's own bold gestures would see UDI at a number of the more high-profile colleges and something needs to be done for research, higher postgraduate degrees".

As we speak, more chaos is



History professor Norman Stone, Thatcher pal and high-living right-wing media darling, waves a barbed goodbye to Oxford. Next stop Ankara Institute

over by a car. More media requests pour in. "I think it's time for a drink. Calvados OK?" The Dauphin Calvados is fine and warrants a probe into Stone's past record of heavy drinking, and the often cited accusation that academe has been partially sacrificed for worship on the altars of Fleet Street and television celebrity. Should there have been more mea culpas, would he have done things differently? He admits: "I bave to say, yes. I do recognise myself in these stories. And there were silly mistakes." He closes his eyes as he remembers one interview

he gave to Zoe Heller of The

piling up. A neighbour comes Independent on Sunday. He to the door. The family cat, Monty, has been tragically run opened that bottle of wine at opened that 11.30 - am that is." For all Stone's excesses and

media celebrity, it is too easy to overlook that he is still one of our finest analytical minds in the task of unravelling the meaning, if there is any, of the 20th century. The 1980s, with the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, and with Western Europe desperately trying in reinvent its raison d'être, placed Stone in the role of historical lifeguard. If you were drowning for meaning, he could throw you assistance. He is still throwing.

"Western Europe is like Legnland. It's just unreal. Wamen have effectively gone

will all this lead? "Oh, I think we'll all end up living in a more upmarket version of the Florida Everglades." These statements are given with a sense of mischief, and unless

you understand this, you do not understand Norman Stone. Another photographer arrives. The professional study and its prominent pictures of the hattle of Waterlno are ahandoned in favour of coffee in the kitchen. Here a large

poster advertising Margaret Thatcher's book The Downing Street Years adorns the walls, If you look for more fan club clues the exercise only gets more confusing. On the mantle The connection would be a decent question for Paxman in University Challenge.

So who will be rated from the 20th century? "Margaret Thateher." The reply from Stone is the speed of a hullet.

She may well be the last bit of English political culture given to the world." Stane is a premier-league Mrs T fan, He sits on the Thatcher Fnundadon. Throughout her reign he was a sort of historico-moral adviser. giving the force of past wisdom to her vision of Britain's future. Here he chooses to give away a secret. "I wasn't quite a fan from the beginning. I wrote an article for *The Times* in 1981. after her first Budget which cut expenditure. I was very critical.

But The Times | he hreaks into laughter| spiked the article." He admits to being "useless as a futurologist" but he is clear on what should happen to British politics and millennium government. "Democracy, if it makes any sense, means you occasionally have to let the other side in." Baroness Thateher's own history man says quite categorically that "I hope the Labour Party will win. I'm rather impressed by Blair." John Major's regime is dismissed for its handling of Bosnia. He believes the British government effectively sided with the Serbian regime of Milosevic, calling this "the warst episode of British foreign policy since ..." In anger, he almost doesn't finish, "It was unbelievable. And I don't see how any decent person could vote for Major."

Another quotation arrives as Stone is asked what should now happen in the Tories. The words of a Germanic prince from 1849 are recalled: "I hope for a little hanging. Perhaps elemency first, then a little

Born in Glasgow, a comment on another Glaswegian. the comedian Billy Connolly, brings more laughter. Connolly, a former shippard worker, once said he was "a welder who had got away with it". Has Smue got away with it too? "I have in say that there is an element of truth in that." But he believes that Oxford got what it expected of him. He has become known outside the parochial cloisters, but accepts. in apology really. "it has not always been a comfortable dons] as I've been rude about Oxford. But overall they have been very kind in me."

Fortunately, it would be inappropriate to wave goodbye for too long. He is still writing and hopes the Turkish adventure to Bilkent University in Ankara will elear his thoughts for a final push at work on the 20th century. "In a way I'm glad I haven't written anything too grandiose yet. But I will write better, I'm sure nf it."

Betty, your job is to sweep the gutter

Dicture this scene. Ques-tion Time in the House on a blustery winter's afternoon. The boys are packed in shoulder to shoulder. Their grey uniforms are more or less in order, but the atmosphere is

fractious. Tony rises to his feet and points an accusing, twisted finger at Jnhn. "It's not our fault you can't run a half-way competent government!" he yells. His friends, huddled around him as if expecting violence, roar their approval. Some of their faces are so distorted that they look as if they might start to

John's riposte draws a guttural squawk from his own side. They love this taunt, even though they've heard it dozens of times before: "You certainly don't want the educational ehoice for everyone that you yourself have enjoyed!" he shouts, gleeful but irrelevant.

Just another day in the Mother of Parliaments. But what makes today different is what happens after the chief prefect and the head boy have sat down. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, rises to her feet and hegins berating the press, who are sitting meekly above her head. It has been brought to her notice, she says, that the media have been talking about sleaze



MPs are held in low regard, and the Speaker blames the press. But, says Fran Abrams, she should get real

But the vast majority of mem- infects almost everyone who bers are decent, honourable people. Why, Parliament even acts as a school for fledgling democrats from all over the

Betty, I have something to say to you, and I am going to try very hard not to say it in unparlia mentary language. Come off it! Get real! As Jim McDonald from Coronation Street would say: "Catch yourself on."

You're right about one thing. Journalists probably are missing the point when they dig around in one or two small, murky holes and conclude that the whole political process is tainted by their smell.

The stench that pervades the House of Commons is far more powerful than that. It's the smell of years of male domination and entrenched social attitudes. The smell of petty power games and ritualistic confrontation. The smell of oily sycophancy, nf backroom deals, of the failure even to begin to search for

The real dishonesty in our democratic process has oothing to do with brown envelopes doesn't even stem directly from the activities of the lobbyists who circle the Palace of Westminster like woives. It's just here. It time-worn stonework and it debate has gone on. And every-

inhabits this place. I say this now, two months after arriving, because I know it will not be much longer before L too, cease to notice. Before I

stop wondering what people here mean when they talk about Of course, name of this would matter much if the place was doing its job properly. It wouldn't matter that a senior

woman MP sneaks into the chamber from behind the Speaker's chair because she finds the place so intimidating. It wouldn't matter that journalists gain most of their information through off-the-record briefings from people who haven't got the courage of their convictions. But the fact is that these sur-

face irritations mask a far deeper malaise. The opposition - here, one assumes naively, to oppose - are barely doing anything of the sort. What happens time after time is that ministers propose legislation, the opposition say they dislike some of it, then the parliamentary arithmetic looks ropey so the two sides get together and stitch up handed over in shady bars. It a deal. The opposition wins some concessions, the Govern-ment gets its legislation through without delays and a few contentious clauses are left to give seeps out of every pore of the the impression that a real, open

tion, real information-gathering. in the sea of paperwork washing through the place either. In the inches-thick daily wad of minis-ters' written answers in MPs' questions you find evasion after tock evasion. "Nnt available in the firm requested." "Could only be supplied at dispropor-tionate cost." "Not held cen-trally." And increasingly, "Not a matter for this department,"

because it has been farmed out to an arm's-length agency. Do you remember what happened, Betty, just after you made your statement the other day? I'm sure you do because you had to shout over the hubbuh in make yourself heard. Pantnmime nver, the honourable members headed en masse for the doors. A few moments later the expanses of

green leather banquette were nigh-on empty. Most debates feature a dozen or so MPs along with a minister folling, bored and half-awake, on the front bench. People wander in, make speeches and wander out again. Then when the division bell rings they all roll out of the bars, restaurants and tea rooms to vote as per instructions. Half the time most of them haven't heard a single

word of the argument. These things matter because

one goes home happy. Don't when things go wrong, the bother looking for real opposi-checks and balances don't seem to work. What happened to the sweeping changes we thought would result from the Nolan report on standards in public life? The Scott report on arms tn Iraq? A few days of furore. then everyone settled back into their comfortable routine.

The saddest thing, though, is that I don't think I ever really expected it to be any different Like most reasonably wellinformed members of the public. I regarded my MP not as someone through whom I and my fellow constituents could express our views but as an agent of his party.

That's why I and thousands nf others like me don't get involved - because we don't think we can make a difference. Why 30 per cent of Oxbridge undergraduates say they won't even vote. Why nothing ever changes.

Betty Boothroyd was wrong to say what she did the other day. Of course there are people in the House who are swimming against the vide, but the Speaker seems to have failed to notice the fact that the current is going in the wrong direction.

All of us are in the gutter, of course, but more of us should be looking at the stars. And as for you, Betty, aren't you one of the people whose job it is to keep



business & city

BUSINESS & CITY DEPUTY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

TV triumvirate aims for 1 million viewers in three years

Michael Harrison

British Digital Broadcasting, the new terrestral television company launched yesterday by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB. Granada and Carlton, is aiming to capture at least 1 million subscribers in its first three years. provided it wins the right to begin services from next summer.

The new relevision grouping will also provide the BBC with

the joint venture's channels at owned International CableTel. premium rates.

As news emerged of BDB's bid for three of the four "mulitplexes" or blocks of frequency being offcred by the Indepedent Television Commission, shares in the three companies soared. Each will have a one-third stake in the company and will share evenly in its £300m investment programme to get the new terrestial digital up and running.

a lucrative platform for its ven-ture into subscription television with Flextech by taking four of biggest cable operator, the US-

which has formed a rival company Digital Television Network, to bid for the same three multiplexes. DNT is promising a top class line up of film. sport, entertainment, money and factual channels with the back up of ITN, Hollywood studios and specialist producers.

The cable industry also served notice that it could mount an objection to BDB's programme line-up on the grounds that BSkyB was offer-ing its channels in a way that dishle relevision companies.

The three television companies behind BDB have been preparing their bid for four months af-ter Rupert Murdoch at BSkyB, Granada's Gerry Robinson and Carlton's Michael Green came together in a "meeting of minds" last autumn. Together they pose a formidable combination. Carl-ton is Britain's higgest terrestial television company owning the Carlton, Central and West-County Television franchises. Granada owns London Week-

criminated unfairly against ca- end Television in addition to its own North-west franchise and BSkyB is the worlds biggest pay satellite TV operator with 6 mil-

lion subscribers.

BDB will offer 15 pay chan-nels - 12 of them in a basic subscription package and three premium subscription channels, Sky Sports, the Mevie Channel and Sky Movies, Analysts estimate that the cost of the basic service will be £10-£12 a month while the premium channels are likely to cost another £3 each.

It has yet to be decided whether the Sky Sports channel will automatically show live Premiership football action. promting speculation that its launch on digital could co-incide

with a new pay-per-view deal with the leading clubs. Nigel Walmsley, director of broadcasting at Carltoo and one of BDB's six directors, refused to be drawn on its detailed business plans. But he said that the company aimed to be in profit after five years and would market aggressively to bring in

subscribers who do not yet take pay television.

Our plans are based on the three-quarters of British homes that do not have subscription TV. That is a market of 16 million homes which means there are an enormous number of people who could be drawn to multi-channel viewing by digiial terrestial television.

BDB hopes that viewers will be attracted by not requiring a satellite dish or a new set to reeeive digital television - just a "plug in and watch" set-top box

£200-£300. Eventually, televisions incoporating integrated digital technology will be available, creating only 1210 more than conventional sets. Mr Walmsley said: "We are satisfied that we can deliver the equipment that is needed at the time and in the volumes it will be required."
BDB said that if successful, it

could start serving over 70 per cent of the population from the middle of next year, rising to 90 per cent by the end of 1999.

AbbeyNational makes £1.4bn ScotAm offer

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Scottish Amicable's plans for a stock market flotation hit the buflers yesterday as Abbey National launched a surprise takeover offer worth up to £1.4bn, prompting speculation of a bidding war among rival

Abbey's offer trumped analysts' estimates of the value of the mutually owned life company, leading many to suggest that a takeover of ScotAm was a racing certainty.

ScotAm executives, including Sandy Stewart, the chairman, plus Roy Nicolson and Paul Bradshaw, the chief executive and deputy, were yesterday locked in emergency meetings with advisers SBC Warburg in a bid to avoid falling into Abbey's hands.

National's offer as a "no- our requirements." brainer" for Scottish Amicable's eligible to vote on the deal; "This offers cash up front, without having to wait several years for it."

It also emerged that three investment trusts investing in Scottish Amicable with-profits policies could hold the key to a tal arm Securitas.

potential special meeting of rebel policyholders if ScotAm does not enter into serious talks with Abbey or other bidders.

Abbey's offer for ScotAm involves an immediate payment of at least £400m in cash or shares, more than five times the £75m the life office was proposing to make available in bonuses to policies.

In additioo. Abbey said it would be willing to make a further investment of hetween £700m and £1ho to buy the embedded value of the ScotAm life fund. This would be based oo detailed actuarial calculatioos.

ScotAm was quick to de-nounce the hid as both "vague" and "inadequate" and said it inteoded to press ahead with its two-stage plans.
Mr Stewart said: "If we have

on the table a firm offer which is quite clearly likely to be However, Charles Landa, in-surance analyst at SG Strauss then we have to consider it. At Turnhull, described Abhey this stage the hid doesn't meet

still he put to members in a proxy postal vote within the next few days, involve a £350m cash injection by Swiss Re, the reinsurer, plus a further £45m from its jointly owned venture capi-

Io return for the £75m, policyholders are expected to abandon mutual status.

A flotadoo in three to five years' time would oet policyholders between £200m and £400m more, ScotAm's directors would receive share honuses worth up to £14.4m.

Charles Toner, deputy chief executive at Abbey National. said: "We would be willing to go into detailed talks on our offer, which we believe is better than the uncertainty of ScotAm's own flotation proposals in three to five years' time. "We believe ScotAm is a good

company, with room for improvement. We have shown that we can provide commercial discipline with our takeover five years ago of Scottish Mutual." Scottish Mutual, he added, has quadrupled its funds under management to £8hn, while its

increase in total new premium scope for close collaboration between them. He stressed that ScotAm's oew offices in Stirling would stay open. No redun-

1996 results show an 81 per coot

dancies were planned. alyst at Merrill Lynch, said:



Rearguard action: Sandy Stewart, the Scottish Amicable chairman, was yesterday locked in emergency meetings with the advisers SBC Warburg in an attempt to thwart an Abbey takeover

come close to the valuation that ScotAm had placed on the company io several years' time. If I were ScotAm I would be wondering if there will be a white Roman Cizdyn, insurance an-knight coming to the rescue." Among potential rivals

National's offer as a "no- our requirements."

Mr Tooer said the two life "This has been very cleverly named by analysts are Pruden- should bear in mind is that it is brainer for Scottish Amicable's ScotAm's own proposals, companies proximity, in or tal and Allianz, the Germanical vulnerable to policyholder pressurant sure. It only needs 50 to call a said the company was watching developments "with interest".

Alan Richards, a director at First Marathon, a new corporate finance house, said: "Scot-Am will find it very difficult to get round this one. What one

Sterling index

meeting and demand that that the matter be put to a vote."

The meeting would have to take place within 28 days, even if ScotAm ballots members oo

Comment, page 23

Fidelity faces SFA penalty for poor service

Banking Correspondent

Fidelity Brokerage Services, the UK private client stock-broking arm of the giant US fund management group will be disciplined by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the industry regulator, over the poor service it has been giving

to customers.
The SFA also said yesterday it was extending a ban on the firm taking in any new business until the end of April. The han was first imposed last October and was due to end yesterday. The regulator will not decide

the size of its financial penalty against Fidelity Brokerage Ser-vices (FBS) until all the diffi-culties have been resolved.

The highly unusual action by the SFA followed complaints from elients after FBS introduced a oew computer system last April. The computer prob-lems resulted in delays with share dividend payments and the quarterly income payment into self-select personal equity plans. There were also delays in mailing clicots' statements. some uf which contained incorrect information.

Some complaints remain uned to pay compensation to some of its 30,000 clients. Phil West, marketing manager at FBS, declined to give precise details of reduced the number of comthe amount paid but said it was plaints - 850 clients complained

Compensation which had been paid to date was generally of the order of tens of pounds to each client rather than thousands, Mr West said.

The SFA said: "Good progress has been made, but further work is still required before the SFA can be confident that Fidelity Brokerage Services is offering a level of customer service which is consistently satisfactory."

During the period of the extended ban the SFA said it

banks to

stress tes

portfolio

would monitor the customer service performance of FBS and oversee the resolution of outstanding customer complaints and enquiries. "SFA has, in addition, placed

FBS on notice that it intends in mitiate disciplinary proceedings against the firm when the outstanding issues are finally resolved to the satisfaction of the authority, the SFA said.

In setting the penalty, the SFA said it would take into account the speed with which FBS dealt with the outstanding matters. The SFA said it was satisfied that FBS had adequate resources and packing to ensure investors' money and securities

were not in jeopardy. "We've made very good resolved although FBS has start- progress but we'do recognise that there's work to be done, Mr West said.

He said FBS had significantly "significantly smaller" than the originally - and upgraded the £1m mentioned in some reports. computer software.

Southern takes Pound suffers a up Ziff scheme fresh battering

Business Correspondent

The creator of an ingenious alternative to share buy-back schemes, enabling companies to hand back hundreds of million pounds to investors without falling foul of new tax rules, is thought to have "sold" his idea in principle to at least two more large businesses. As news of the two possible

forthcoming cash windfalls emerged yesterday. Southern Electric, the regional electricity supplier, announced plans to adopt the scheme, handing back-£15om to shareholders. Southern is the second

privatised mility to take up the advice of City of London investment bankers SBC Warburg, which was replaced as its broker last year. On Thursday Yorkshire Water stirred up further controversy by proposing to return £145m to its investors. The scheme was devised by

Max Ziff at SBC Warburg, the investment bank, after the Government changed the tax rules on share buy-backs last October. Mr. Ziff, 38, had previously advised Northern Electric dur-

3017.32

Statistics as of 31 January

earth" defence of the takeover bid from Trafalgar House. The two companies most interested in Mr Ziff's latest idea

are not thought to be utilities. However, he confirmed he had approached other privatised utilities which have not yet carried out share buy-backs. Shares in Southern rose 13p to 800.5p yesterday. The surge followed a 16p rise the previous

day after speculation about a buy-back. The arrangement involves Southern replacing every 100 existing shares with 184 new ordinary shares and 200 "B" shares. The company will then buy back all the B shares for 30p each giving investors 60p in cash for each existing share they hold. The capital restructuring will raise the company's gearing from around 10 per cent to some 40 per cent. In addition. Southern pledged yesterday that its dividend would remain unchanged, forecasting a final payout to shareholders of 30.1p. or 15.05p for each of the new

ordinary shares. lan Marchani, Southern Electric's finance director, said one big advantage was that all sharebolders would benefit.

but shares soar

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The pound was battered down to its lowest level for more than a mooth on the foreign exchange markets vesterday. But the stock market took heart from the exchange rate weakness, with the FISE 100 index ending more than 47 points higher at a record

Sterling's index against a range of currencies closed 0.8 points lower at 94.4. It has lost more than two pfennigs against the German mark in 24 hours.

Dealers blamed the pound's renewed decline on a combination of expectations that Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will not raise base rates after the monthly monetary meeting on Wednesday and fears that the Federal Reserve might increase US rates after its Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday. These were fuelled by figures yesierday showing that the American economy

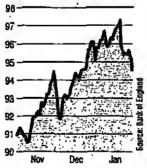
grew at a steamy pace in the

final quarter of last year.

"The pound's higher level was buoved by speculative inflows. That hot money is now going elsewhere," said Paul Lambert. a currency analyst at the investment bank UBS. He added that the Toyota president Hiroshi Okuda's warning earlier this week about future investment in Britain if the pound stayed out

of the single currency had also led to sales of the pound for yen. The paradox in sterling's very recent weakness is that if it goes much further it will deprive the Chancellor of his best excuse for not taking Bank of England advice to increase the cost of borrowing. The Bank's Governor, Eddie George, bas hecome increasingly forthright in saying this is needed if inflation is to hit the Government's 2.5 per

cent target. The sterling index ended yesnerday less than 4 per cent above its level when the Bank drew up its last quarterly Inflation Report, when it started arguing for rates to go up. The



is due on 12 next report February David Coleman, chief economist at CIBC Wood Gundy in London, warned that Mr Clarke's resistance might suit his cicctoral needs but held dangers for sterling. "Once the market thinks Clarke is behind the

game, the game is up." he said. Figures vesterday showed America's GDP growth rebounded in the final quarter of last year. This tilted Wall Street analysts towards the view that Alan Greenspan, Fed Chairman, will favour a tighter interest rate policy, even though most believe an erraocally strong trade performance boosted the economy at the end of last year.

The US economy expanded at an annual rate of 4.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1996, a much faster pace than economists had expected. Consumer spending picked up strongly. In addition, exports surged while growth in imports slowed down.

Banks fear 'Trojan Horse' supermarkets

Nigel Cope

Concerns are growing in the banking industry that the decision by the high-street hanks to form joint ventures with the supermarket groups could be allowing a Trojan Horse into the sector. According to research by Kleinwort Benson, the supermarkets are likely to dump their banking partners if their schemes become successful. choosing to operate the services themselves instead.

Banks such as NatWest, Ahbey National and Bank of Scotland, which have signed oini ventures with Tesco, Safeway and Sainsbury's respectively, could find that they have provided support for a powerful new group of competitors that could de-stabilise the sector by exerting pricing pressure.

The report adds that the in-

troduction of well-branded new entrants could be dangernus, given the relatively weak brand names of the high-street hanks. Kleinwort's Simon Samuels who wrote the report says: "Long-term these supermar-ket link-ups are bad news for the hanking industry. It is quite likely that the supermarkets will

works. All the banks will bave gained is a fee for running the accounts." The mechanism for super-

markets to oust the banks from their partnerships is already in place in some cases. A little known clause in Sainsbury's cootract with Bank of Scotland enables the supermarket group forcibly to buy out the bank's stake after a certain period.

Bank of Scotland has al-

ready been jilted twice by joint venture partners in similar circumstances. It was the joint venture partner with Marks & Spencer when the high street giant first entered the financial services products. M&S later bought the bank out. When Bank of Scotland co-operated with the Halifax Building Society over the launch of a credit card it suffered a similar fate.

The report expressed concerns over Nat West's deal with Tesco as "it gives a new competitor a relatively easy entry into banking". The view among banking analysts is that NatWest agreed the deal because if felt that if NatWest did not do it, then someone else

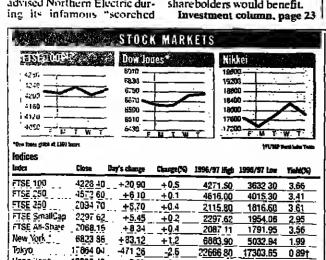
choose to go it alooe if the idea would, possibly an overseas group keen to gain a foothold in the UK market.

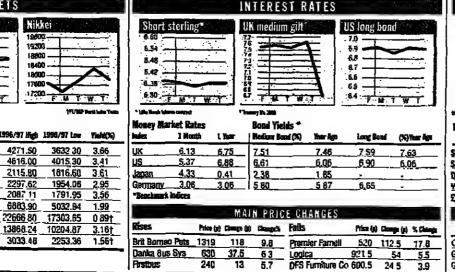
The report also includes forecasts for customers numbers and profits for the various supermarket banks. It says that around 10 per cent of Sainsbury's 12 million customers are likely to sign up for the Sainsbury's Bank when it is launched in the next two months. This would give the fledgling op-eration 1.2m accounts. Pre-tax profits could reach £28.4m after three years.

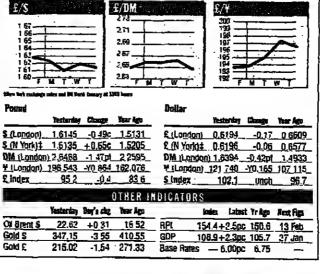
Assuming a similar take-up from the other supermarkets, Safeway could have 550,000 customers and profits of £13m from financial services. Tesco would have Im account holders yielding profits of £24m.

Tesco is already looking to extend the range of financial services with a branded credit card the next step. Other plans being considered are mortgages and personal lending.
It is understood that Abbey

National is considering opening small "kiosk" banks in branches of Safeway. This would follow similar operations in America where Wells Fargo and ANZ have in-store branches.







CURRENCIES

Judgment reserved on Forsyth conviction

reserved judgment on Elizaheth Forsyth's conviction for taundering £400,000 of stolen funds from Polly Peck, the fruit to electronies group that was run by the fugitive Asil Nadir and which collapsed in

The 60-year-old grandmother, who was an aide of Nadir's, walked free on Thursday after completing less than one year of a five-year sentence handed down last year. A jury convicted her last March of handling of stolen funds. She was granted bail after

the Court of Appeal ruled that her sentence was "dispropor-

tionate". She has spent the last two days appealing against her sentence and her conviction-

We desire to reserve our judgment in this matter ... we will give our decision as soon as we can." Lord Justice Beldam, one of the three appeal Court judges, said yesterday. Lord Justice Beldam said her

bail would continue and indicated that whatever the result of their ruling on her conviction, Forsyth would not return to iail.

حكذا من الاجل

COMMENT

By sharing the set-top

box with Granada and

Carlton, and then

inviting the world's

best public service

broadcaster to supply

programming, he has

neatly side-stepped

the accusation that

everyone else to

ransom'

BSkyB wanted to hold

THE INDEPENDENT - SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 1997

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Everyone gains, but Murdoch gains the most

L least for now. Yesterday's announcement that BSkyB is joining forces with Granada. Carlton and the BBC to launch a digital terrestial television service ensures for the time being that Rupert Murdoch will not be the sole gatekeeper to the new age of broadcast

entertaintment and information. Mr Murdoch did not need to climb into bed with three of his biggest rivals to create British Digital Broadcasting, BSkyB is pressing ahead with its own plans to launch 200 digital satellite television channels this autum - more than enough to swamp the 30 that will be available on its smaller terrestial

But by sharing the set-top box with Gerry Robinson at Granada and Carlton's Michael Green and then inviting the world's best public service broadcaster to supply programming, be has neatly side-stepped the accusation that BSkyB wanted to hold everyone else to ransom by controlling access to a mass inforainment market.

The sighs of relief from Whitehall were almost audible, not least from the Science and Technology Minister, Ian Taylor. The Jeremiahs who said digital would be monopolised by one company and one platform

had been proved wrong, he declared.

Well, perhaps. But it is certain that, if not a monopoly, then digital television will remain the province of an oligopoly for the foreseeable future. Even that requires some heroic assumptions. One is that the creative,

have brought BDB together will not just as easily tear it apart, leaving Mr Murdoch still holding the encryption technology fast to his breast when everyone else has departed.

صكرا من الاعل

A second is that there will be more than one provider in the "commercial" sector of the digital market. When bids closed at noon yesterday for the four "mulitplexes" or blocks of frequency being offered by the Independent Television Commission, there was only one other taker. International CableTel may be a reputable player but it is on its own, erstwhile partners like Lord

Hollick's United News having pulled out as word spread that Mr Murdoch was in town. A third assumption is that public service broadcasters like the BBC will attack the market with gusto, perhaps by launching pay channels in their own right.

Finally, we have to rely on BDB's set-top oxes being accessible on open, fair and reasonable terms to other broadcasters, and the regulatory system being capable of pre-venting any abuse of this conditional access. What will digital terrestial television actu-

ally mean for the viewer and the provider? For the viewer it will bring forward the day when subscrption television enters every liv-ing room in the country. Television sets will come fitted with the technology that allows sport or films to be viewed on a pay-as-yougo basis. Just plug in and watch, and all without that ugly dish on the outside wall. The market is buge and untapped

TV. BSkyB must calculate that once viewers have tasted digital terrrestial they will migrate to its own digital satellite service where the real killing is to be made. Why, you ask, would anyone want another 200 channels at their disposal when they have already got 30 to chose from, half of which

will be free? The answer lies in bow that satellite capacity will be used. Forget about imported US sitcoms, drama repeats and game shows. Those 200 channels will be used to pump Hollywood blockbusters or live action sport into the home on a pay-perview basis. An easier option than a trip to the video store or local stadium and a big

money spinner for BSkyB.

Of course, everyone else stands to gain as well. Carlton and Granada get another outlet for their pay channels and the BBC and Flextech get paid handsomely for the new channels they are jointly developing. But, as ever, the biggest winner will be Mr Murdoch. He will neutralise the political and commercial opposition and form a hridgehead between the two halves of his digital empire. And all for an outlay of £100m - small change by BSkyB's standards.

The Scottish Amicable board was already I covered in the brown stuff and now it is digging itself even deeper into the ground. Denying 1.1 million policybolders an op-portunity to consider an offer from Abbey

The battle of the set-top box is over, at commercial and financial tensions that barely a quarter of homes have subscription National that is almost certainly better than the one made by their own board is neither friendly nor, to borrow another phrase popular among life companies, equitable.

Since it would only take 50 of the 1.1 million to requisition a special general meet-ing, the board could quickly find itself forced by a vote to put the Abbey proposal to membersm anyway. Any one of the three City investment trusts that have bought up port-folios of ScotAm policies could force a vote.

Unless there is a change of heart soon, it will be hard to avoid the conclusion that this bead in the sand attitude has as much to do with the £14m incentive package the board is proposing for itself as with the financial arithmetic of the competing proposals.

The problem for Scot Am in beaong an

outside bidder is the special way in which mutual insurers traditionally operate. Building societies do not distribute their

profits to members, and have built up huge and valuable reserves. There are therefore plenty of funds to bribe members to vote n favour of conversion.

But mutual insurers hand their profits to their policyholders as they go along, as bonuses, and keep back only the working capital needed to run the business, leaving little in the way of a shish fund. So how does ScotAm find £75m up front to compensate its policyholders for giving up

their ownership of the organisation, plus another £200m on floration? It is hard to be precise about where the money will come from, in the absence of the detailed documentation, which will show how Swiss Re and Securitas will acquire their proposed 20 per cent stake in the business. But you cannot get something for nothing. The likeliest explanation is that much of the payments will be financed by future policyholders, who will receive lower

In other words, ScotAm appears to be doing no more than promising to pay future profits from its life business up front. There

no money to pay anything for goodwill.

It is this that gives an outsider such as Abbey National an almost unbeatable advantage. Ahhey believes there is synergy with its own business, and says it is worth its while paying £400m in goodwill. (The other £700m £1hn in its offer simply replaces working capital and cannot be dis-tributed to policyholders.)

To persuade members to accept its own plan, the ScotAm board is promising to make the company more efficient after demutualisation, and therefore more valuable when it is eventually floated on the stock

But this is largely the same management that has piloted the company down the league tables of returns to policyholders in the last few years, so the claim has to be taken with a large pinch of salt. Having publicly admitted that it no longer favours mutuality. ScotAm now has no alternative but to auction itself off to the highest hidder.

World Economic Forum: Bank of England Deputy Governor calls for global measures to safeguard against risk

Davies tells banks to 'stress test' portfolios

Jeremy Warner Davos, Switzerland

Banks and other financial institutions are being urged by the Bank of England to add a new form of risk assessment - "stress testing" - to the welter of different tools already used to ensure financial prudence in

Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday the next step in the provision of safeguards to prevent banking collapses "is for banks to develop models of market risk which allow them to sulculate regulatory capital charges and to stress test their

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Mr Davies cited the possibility of financial crisis in Japan or a delay in plans for monetary union in Europe as examples of where banks need to be assessing their exposure

to future market events. Banks need to know how they would be affected by different possible market scenarios," he id at a seminar on financial fragility. Afterwards, Mr Davies said that the Bank had discovered several cases in the City of financial institutions whose pay structures had a tendency to encourage excessive risk taking by

traders and other employees. The Bank of England is planning to publish the results of an in depth study of pay and risk taking in the City within the next few weeks. Mr Davies stressed that this was not an attempt to interfere in how investment banks remunerate their emthe Bank might take it into account in setting capital adequacy levels or through other channels of banking supervision.

Mr Davies insisted good progress was being made in setting up a "common language of risk" which operated across different jurisdictions. Banking supervisors had now provided, through capital charges, an incentive for banks to hedge their exposures to individual price moves and to focus on the degree of diversification in their portfolios.

However, most of this risk assessment was "backward" looking in its effect; banks needed to be carouraged to look at fu-ture risk as well. "Today banks should be asking themselves how they would be affected by a financial crisis in Japan or by a decision not to proceed with Economic and Monetary Union on the current timetable."

Convergence in European

bond markets was one possible danger point, he said. If convergence is being driven largely by political factors and the expectation of EMU, there could be an extreme reaction if EMU does not happen on time. or some nations that have benefited from the convergence trend are excluded from the first wave. At the same seminar, Andrew Crockett, general manager of the Bank for International settlements, said that banking supervision and risk management was now being set internationally on the basis that there would be no state bail outs when

a bank runs into difficulties. Only in extreme circumstances when a collapse shows signs of causing wider danger to the inployees. However, if remuner- ternational financial system. ation policy was shown to be could central bankers and govencouraging undue risks, then ernments be expected to step in.



Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin (above), told Davos delegates yesterday that President Boris Yeltsin was "unswervingly committed to the second stage of reforms that have vet to see Russia achieve economic

growth since abandoning Communism. Last year, Russian national output dropped by 6 per cent following a 4 per cent decline in 1995. Russia has been in recession for the past five years. The Russian Economy Minister, Yavgeny

Yasin, said the economy was still failing to improve: "Production is still in a slump." His reform programme includes big reductions in spending, including tleep cuts in housing and community subsidies

'G7 must address currency stability'

of Seven, the world's leading industrialised nations, to adpact for currencies, writes

Jeremy Warner.
Fred Bergsten, director of the US based Institute for International Economics, said that "competitive devaluation" of currencies in Europe ahead of European Monetary Union (EMU) and the real possibility of a collapse in the yen bad made immediate discussion of a stability pact a necessity and deputy Treasury Secretary, also were fully exorcised he urged the Group of Seven seemed to consider the idea Japanese economy.

A senior US economist to give consideration to the fanciful and dismissed Mr yesterday called on the Group idea when they meet in Berlin Bergsten's comments as next week.

However, British officials in dress as a matter of urgency the idea of a world-wide stability was speaking, downplayed the was speaking, downplayed the idea. Discussion of currencies would be close to the top of the agenda in Berlin, they said, but they added that consideration of target zones for currencies, supported by central bank intervention and co-ordinated national economic policies, was thought bighly unlikely.

Lawrence Summers, the US

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, considered the possibility of a further prolonged slide in the yen unlikely. The yen's recent weakness was helping exporters and as a

provocative, as usual".

consequence the country's economic problems were beginning to ease. He judged that it would take

five or six years before the effects of the last lending bubble were fully exorcised from the

Mr Bergsten argued that a currency pact should be introduced in two stages. There should be a first stage to cope with present stresses being caused by the weakness of the

yen and the approach of European Monetary Union. He believed that European countries were pursuing devaluation of their currencies as

a deliberate act so as to gain competitive advantage ahead of being absorbed into European Monetary Union. Once European Monetary

Union is created, however, Mr Bergsten expected it to become a very strong currency - "the

the dollar" - creating the need for a further currency pact between the US. Europe and

Without target zones for these currencies, you can expect some pretty fierce trade disputes between the three blocks", be said.

"I don't hold with the view that the euro will be a weak currency ... on the contrary, because nations within it will have so much fiscal freedom, the central bank will be forced to adjust for this with a tight

over the euro' **Yvette Cooper**

EMU

'crisis

The "unpopular euro" has hecome the focus for "a crisis of confidence in European integration", according to a Bundesbank board member. Speaking to a conference on monetary union in Otzenhausen Germany yesterday, Bundesbank official Peter Schmidbuber launched a strong attack on critics of German monetary policy and institutions, in particular the French.

Mr Schmidhuber criticised French proposals to set up a political counterweight to the European Central Bank. He said such arrangements were not provided for within the Maastriebt Treaty, and complained that "the question has to be asked as to how seriously our independence."

Meanwhile the German Finance Ministry refused to comment on the kint made by another Bundesbank member that the Germans would veto the appointment of someone from France to head the new ECB. Helmut Hesse, said on Thursday night that it was "absolutely impossible" that the first head of the new ECB would be French because each member of economic and monetary union will have a veto over

the election. Tensions between the French and German approach to monetary union have been evident for some time. However, the pressures for the two countries to resolve their differences and stick to the existing timetable for monetary union remain ex-

tremely strong.
According to a third member of the Bundesbank, speaking vesterday in Moscow, delaying monetary union would be had for the German economy. Mr Welteke said: "We must assume that it would lead to a revaluation of the mark and that would have a negative influence on the export capabilities of the Germonetary policy. High interest man economy at a time when u rates will mean a strong euro." employment is already high." man economy at a time when un-

A key to unlocking value in utilities

payouts to shareholders in a utility group is further evidence of the sector's emergence from the cloud it has been under for the past three years. This rather amorphous grouping has been hit by a succession of unexpectedly severe regulatory reviews, but it has been the growing certainty with which the market has been factoring in the election of a Labour government that has cast the longest shadow. The water and electricity industries have borne the brunt of these fears, being seen as the most likely target for Labour's "windfall" tax, variously put

at anything from £3bn to £10bn. But, as our chart shows, there has been a definite re-rating of the sector since the latter end of last year. There is a feeling abroad that the gloom has

been overdone. One factor is the robust financial strength of the companies, now being unlocked in buy-backs and the like. The first inkling of this came in Northern Electric's "scorched earth" defence against Trafalgar House in 1995, which promised a 500p-a-share payout to shareholders but would have seen gearing soar to 225 per cent. Although the Trafalgar bid failed, that such audacious financial engineering could be

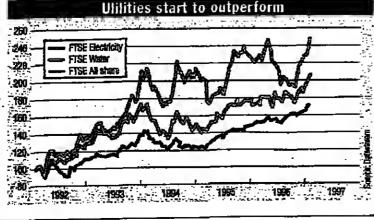
THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

the sector. Even after suffering a second regulatory review in 12 months, UK electricity companies still looked succulent morsels to electricity groups from the US, where regulation leaves fewer crumbs for shareholders and gear-

seriously contemplated lifted the lid on pleted his second review in July 1995, eight of the regional electricity com-panies have been taken out by US groups and the remaining utilities are busy gearing up to show how much they can give back to shareholders.

Yesterday's Southern Electric payout ing of 100 per cent is not uncommon. comes bot on the beels of a similar deal In the 18 months since the regulator, announced by Yorkshire Water. Both Professor Stephen Littlechild, com- were dreamed up by Max Ziff of the



Although the psyback is complicated in the detail, the rationale is simple and for once not skewed in favour of big City institutions. The beauty of Southern's scheme is that the B shares it proposes to issue put an instrument paying around 6 per cent gross - a rate comparable with most building societies' - into the hands of shareholders, while giving them the chance to realisc capital by selling back to the company. No one class of sharebulder benefits over another and all can still benefit from a progressive dividend policy on their remaining ordinary shares. Southern is projecting payments to shareholders rising between 5 and 8 per

cent in real terms until the year 2000. Other utilities have already won permission from shareholders for buybacks. The advent of the new scheme from Warburgs will only increase the chances of some form of further payback to shareholders, while gearing of 30 to 35 per cent at Yorkshire Water and Southern even after the latest deals means they could conceivably

have a second bite of the cherry. All this begs the big question of what

merchant bankers SBC Warburg to get Labour might do. Earlier this week, round the cramp put on buy-backs and special divideods by the Chancellor last chilling analysis of why utilities are going to prove poor investments for the rest of this century. Part of its argument is that Labour, facing a big government borrowing requirement, will find it bard to resist turning the windfall tax into a permanent annual levy. At the same time, it highlights the potential for a significant tightening of the regulatory screw under Labour.

But both the City and the ntility inthistry generally is coming round to the view that these threats are increasingly quantifiable and containable. Nigel Hawkins at Yamaichi points out that a windfall tax of £3bn on water and electricity alone would represent less than 9 per cent of the combined sector's market capitalisation. At the same time, observers suggest Labour may find the National Health Service and the education system may assume a higher priority than utilities regulation.

With the strength of the pound hammering profits at many other UK industrial companies, the domestic earnings and solid balance sheets of the utilities are looking increasingly attractive. Mr Hawkins singles out PowerGen, Wessex Water and Southern Electric on these grounds.

IN BRIEF

 British Telecom bas told Oftel, the telephones watchdog, that plans for new price controls for the wholesale charges levied on competitor companies for using its network are too tough and could compromise competition. Oftel is currently considering rates for BT's network charges, but has yet to reveal the precise level of any price cuts. BT has also released a survey commissioned from the consultancy group Ovum, which suggests its current network charges are some of the lowest in the world.

 The electricity watchdog, Offer, published its latest consultative document on rules for rival suppliers when the domestic market is opened to competition in 1998. The documents go some way to toughening consumer protection, with new conditions to curh abuse of power by dominant suppliers.

 French unemployment fell by 29,000, in December to 3,092,500. after seasonal factors were taken into account. But analysts fear the overall trend in unemployment is still upwards from the current 12.7 per cent. Further falls in interest rates, after Thursday's 0.5 percentage point cut, are expected.

 The first bonds officially denominated in euros were issued yesterday by the European Investment Bank. Payments will be in ecus until the single currency is created, at the rate of one ecu for one curo. A spokesman for Banque Paribas, one of the lead managers for the bond issue, said it was "a vote of confidence that monetary union would go ahead".

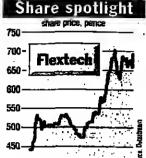
 Volkswagen has suspended a manager in its purchasing department in connection with hribery allegations. VW would not reveal the name of the manager but said he had been suspended to avoid possible destruction of evidence. Der Spiegel magazine said last week that managers in VW's purchasing department asked the German division of ABB Asea Brown Bovert for a DM10m (£3.8m) hribe for giving ABB a DM400m contract to build a paintshop at VW's Czecb subsidiary.

market report / shares

Data Bank

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Rumours surround Reuters as Footsie romps ahead

Rumours of a big wire service reward ratio is very good." He merger were almost sub-merged in the excitement over management into boosting the the digital television alliance. Stories surfacing in New York suggested Reuters, the fi-

nancial information group, was seeking a deal with the US information provider Dow Jones, creator of the famous New York share index. According to a report in Business Week, the Londonbased group has put out feelers to leading Dow Jones shareholders. Reuters, it said, bad expressed an interest in merging with Dow Jones, which

nal and Barron's magazine. It was also prepared to mount an outright takeover bid although reluctant to make a hostile

A US fund manger, Michael

management into boosting the shares, which have failed to sparkle. Mr Price is reputed to have been a significant force in creating the pressure which encouraged the big Chase Manhattan-Chemical Bank merger.

Like Reuters the US group's profit prospects have dimmed in the face of much more intense competition and the vast capital outlay needed just to jog along in such a fast moving business. It is said some Dow Jones shareholders have grown disenchanted and would be republishes the Wall Street Jourceptive to Reuters' overtures. As shares bave soared

Reuters has retreated. The price, 806p in the autumn, fell 11.5p to 656p.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Communications, 11p to 117p.

47.4 points to 4,275.8, top-

Footsie closed at a peak, up

The supporting FTSE 250

failed to match its earlier high,

althnugh gaining 22.8 to 4.595.4. Gilts managed gains

about its US involvement. An

stock market reporter of the year

high flying New York and a ble, 13p to 176p, and Telewest

weakening pound.

Carlton Communications, reflecting its TV link with Granada and BSkvB, led the blue chip charge, up 39p to 558.5p. BSkyB, expected to report a 40 per cent interim profit advance to £150m next week, gained 18.5p to 599p and Granada 19.5p to 897.5p. Flextech, involved in the digital venture with the BBC, put on 39p

to 699p. But with the prospect of Most equities romped more competition the cable industry study indicated sales shead, aided and abetted by companies missed out. Cable are slowing down. Supermartrains group, rose 12p to 752.5p rill Lynch is looking for 1,600p.

Wedd said to be negative.

Among takeover stocks to the fore were Schroders, up 61.5p to 1,714p, and Zeneca. 53.5p to 1,804.5p.

General Accident, despite stories that it could barge into the Abbey National-Scottish Amicable affair, rose 24p to 806p. In a strong banking sec-tor Abbey improved 15.5p to 784.5p.
Oils remained in form with

ping the previous high, hit last week, by 4.3. British Borneo Petroleum Syudicate ending 46p higher at 1,365 and Monument Oil & Gas, following a Nat West Seof almost a point.

EMI, the showbiz group, had another flat session, falling 40.5p tn 1.211p on worries curities buy signal, gaining 1.75p to 90p. Enterprise Oil made further headway, up 7.5p to 686.5p.

ness, had planned to sell 35 million shares.

capital restructuring, firmed 13p to 800.5p. SR Gent, the clothing strug-

developments, easing 2p to 57.5p. It said approaches were being considered". Surrey Free Inns shaded 11p to 486p as Whitbread con-firmed it had sold shares. It is

thrught to have unloaded all its 4.5 per cent stake. The Paramount pubs chain held at 43.5p as Nomura increased its stake to 9.7 per cent.

Biocompatibles Interna-tional had another ebullient

group, circulate, fell 5.5p to vendors, cashing on the sale of their Porterbrook leasing business their Porterbrook leasing business their Porterbrook leasing business their Porterbrook leasing business to be a compared to their Porterbrook leasing business to be a compared to their Porterbrook leasing business to be a compared to their Porterbrook leasing business to be a compared to the compar 127.5 as a 15.8 per cent stake changed hands. April Southern Electric, producing a cash windfall through a where Timothy Aitken was president until 15 months ago, sold on to n major share. holder of Transworld Home gler, failed to produce takcover Healthcare, a Nasdaq company. Mr Aitken, chairman of Omnicare, has become chair. man and chief executive of Transworld. He says Transworld will be able to

> Arcon International, formerly Couroy, rose 5.5p to 44p, a 12 month high, as hopes grew about developments at its Galmoy lead and zinc mine.

provide significance re-

sources to Omnicare.

1 4 A 37 (A)

| 450 JFMAMJJASONDJ | A US fund manger, Michael Price, who runs Franklin Re- sources Mutual Share Fund, has built a 5 per cent Dow Jones stake and says: "The risk- | ahead, aided and abetted by the television spectacular. The dramatic TV alliance provided the extra spur for a market already inspired by a | Nymex lost 14.5p to 99.5p. Oth- | are slowing down. Supermar- kets were in the investor check- out with Safeway off 8p to 383p. Bass, where rumours of a bid for Accor, the French hatel | trains group, rose 12p to 752.5p as the tender offer by former Porterbrook shareholders led to 28.8 million shares (12.1 per cent) being sold at 730p. The | Hnusebuilders were strong. Berkeley, up 38.5p to 735p. raised £34m by placing 5 per | There has been active trading in Burtonwood Brewery this week with vague stories of stake building. The shares are 181.5p. | |
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Villeneuve hoping for quick start

Motor racing DERICK ALLSOP

Williams' launch of their new car yesterday was relatively brief. simple and understated, yet carried an ominous message to all those who aspire to their world championships this season.

Patrick Head, the team's technical director, talked quietly of the evolution of the FW17 and 18 to the latest offering, the FW19. He described more compact components and improved aerodynamics. What is more. Williams have the security of Renault engines for a further two seasons. There seems little doubt that the Williams will again be the car to beat from 9 March.

Michael Schumacher and Ferrari loom threatening on the horizon, but Jacques Villeneuve is the title favourite and his new partner. Heinz-Harald Frentzen, cannot be discounted. Frentzen admined that Damon Hill's championship success last season represented

a difficult act to follow, then posed for a few photographs before disappearing by helicopter. Villeneuve was in less of a hurry, but intends to change all

that once he lines up for the opening grand prix in Melbourne. He accepts the burden of expectation on his shoulders and seeks the kind of explosive lift-off which gave Hill a deci-

sive advantage last time round. The Canadian said: "I can un-derstand people saying that I am the favourite for the championship and centainly I have nothing to learn now that I'm in my second season in Formula One and with Williams. Knowing the tracks will be especially important.

There will be a different pressure on me this year, a more positive pressure. Last year, people in the States were expecting me to fall on my face and now. this year, I've got to prove them right when they expect me to win the championship.

The first races are going to he the most important because



Williams' Heinz-Harald Frentzen takes a first peak at his car, which was unveiled yesterday

bag you can have a strategy. Damon had that advantage last year and although I made up ground, he still won by 19 points. This year my situation is reversed. Heinz is the newcomer to the team. You can always have four or five great races and make up ground, but the chances are you'll then have a bad one and fall back again. It's always so difficult to catch up.

Villeneuve anticipates a more open championship with when you have got points in the mixed feelings. "I prefer clos-

er racing from the fun point of view, but it will be better for my career if I won easily. I don't see that, though, I think Ferrari will take a step forward and also Benetton and McLaren. Heinz is also very quick and although it is a different car for him, he knows Formula One.

The fun, he explained will determine how long this former IndvCars champion will stay in Formula One. Villeneuve said: "There are

not many places to go after For-

mula One, so this place is where I'm likely to stay longer than in the past, but it depends how things work out. It depends how much fun I'm genting out of my racing.

"I can understand people wanting to make Formula One safer, but the cars don't feel fast enough. I'd like them to be faster. Formula One is 20 times safer than it was, and I think it's more than safe enough. If no one had died, we wouldn't have had all this done."

The death of Ayrton Senna,

at Imola, almost three years ago, was a subject the team were reluctant to discuss at length yesterday. However, Frank Williams maintained his forthcoming trial over the Brazilian's fatal crash would not undermine the team's challenge this year.

Williams said: This is a very serious matter and of course we are concerned. But the event in February will have no influence on our approach to the season."

Campbell back, to from depths

ANDY FARRELL reports from Perth, WA

For a man who almost won the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1995, Michael Campbell had a terrible 1996. How had, the 27-year-old New Zealander only admitted to yesterday. "I was not enjoying the game," he said. "I was missing cuts on purpose. There was one where I had a 20-footer on the least the latest and the latest and the least the latest and the last hole and I three-putted on purpose because I didn't want to be there."

Some may have thought it, a few even done it, but it is rare for a golfer to admit to such a lack of professionalism. Campbell thought that the incident occurred in Spain, but on his two appearances in that country he qualified. "I couldn't tell you where it was. My mind was so fogged up," he said.

Campbell missed seven cuts in 17 tournaments in Europe last year, and, by finishing 120th on the money list, he failed by three places to regain his tour card. "I was chucking the towel in all the time and it was very, very stupid. If I missed out on my card by a couple of thousand pounds, and if I had made the cut when I purposely three-putted, I could have made my card for this year.

"I was very pessimistic about my ability last year but things

have changed now. I feel this year is going to be very good. Last week he upened the new season by finishing joint-seventh at the Johnnie Walker Classic A 68 in the second round of the Heineken Classic here left him tied for fourth place, four shots behind the 133 total of the

leader, Padraig Harrington. Campbell is relying on sponsors' invitations to regain his card this year but, after the revelations, Campbell could have a tough road ahead, according to John Paramor, the European

Tour's director of operations. sors regard him for invitations. It is the first time I've heard of something like this but sometimes you can get very low and it can affect you in some ways. I remember Seve Ballesteros saying, the day I stop giving 100 per cent is the day I'll stop playing'."

It took a course-record 63 from Harrington, the 25-yearold from Dahlin, to prevent a New Zealand takeover of the event. Harrington enjoyed the early-morning calm to roll in nine birdie putts and lead by two from Frank Nobilo and by three from Greg Turner, the first-round leader.

Ian Woosnam, the defending champion, shot a 72 for a 141, with Colin Montgomerie a shot further back after a 73. John Daly managed a 71 for a 143 total. Scores, Digest, page 31

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19-4434 SCOTTON RANKS (1,4) (R) T Extenty 8 11 12 ____ B Starry

410-114 NOTES CHOSS (R) (R) G Hortest 6 10 11 ____ A Debts

4143- CAMPACAY (SSO) M Hammord 6 10 7 ____ R Sanitay

1233-34 PARCHAULE (7) (R) (R) M W Existry 6 10 5 Releard Superiors

53-1751 SHARE OPTIONS (1,4) (R) T Existry 6 10 0 ____ A S Swith

- 7 octaves - 7 oc

2.40 MARSTON MOOR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

3.15 DEMMY SWITCH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £8,000 added 2m

3.45 HAROLD CHARLTON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 1f

SETTEME 4-6 Carb Du Tanget, 100-30 Templemen, 7-1 Musicalco, 12-1 Southern Micstrel, 14-1 Penjada, Matt Rold, 20-1 Fordstown, 25-1 Tom

4.20 STARS OF TOMORROW STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

G BANKER COUNT (49) M W Easteby 5 11 2 A Dobble
O BLASTER WASSON (21) C Strain 6 11 2 B Ranger
LABY'S PET Mos 5 Wilderson 6 11 2 A Todd (7)
2 NOBLE TOWN (21) R Colles 5 11 2 P Carbeny 2 PROBLE TOM (11) R Collins 5 11 2 P Corberry
O3 PHAR SMOOTHER CLA) J FileCond 5 11 2 R Gentley
SHAVENON SHOOM J HOWARD J 11 2 R Gentley
SHAVENON SHOOM J HOWARD J 12 R GENTLEY
SPICEMENT LEY PP Mes C Longuy 8 11 2 Richard Goust
SDAYS SUMMS LEY J AND RE 54 STAN'S PRIDE Mys V Acordey 5 11 2 STRONG MARIC Miss C Johnsey 5 11 2 _____ Dorek Byene TRUNDERFORT T Eastedy 5 11 2 _____ A 5 Smith TRUNDERPOINT T Eastedy 5 11 2 .
WYNYARD WHIGHT Mrs M Revoley 5 D DUR CARDIL (15) I Parkes 5 30 11 V Smith GENEROUS STREAK (FR. J Horizon 4 30 6 Jar R Tibeachon 53 CEE/NYLL A Chamboran 4 30 1 Miles C Materiale (7) COQUETTISR J Hecharton 4 30 1 D Parker

16 ——15 declared —

—15 declared —

BETTING: 11-4 Noble Tom, 7-2 Wynyard Knight, 9-2 Roman Outlow, 5-1

Compares Shreek, 10-1 Plan Smoother, 12-1 Thereforeds, 14-1 Universe non Shoon, 33-1 others Count. 20-1 5ha

Breeders' Cup Classic winner Alphabet Soup and Dubai World Cup hopeful Gentlemen clash in the Grade Two San Antonio Handicap at Santa Anita on tomorrow. Alphabet Soup is reported in good shape by trainer David Hofmans, while Richard Mandella's Gentlemen has done little wrong since arriving from Argentina.

STRATFORD

HYPERION 1.05 Eurlipe 1.35 King Of Camelot 2.05 Seod Rioga 2.35 Silver Standard 3.05 Parahandy (nb)

Left-turns course with 2007ed non-in-■ Course is 5W of Stratfort-on-Awon on A499. Stratford station Im. ADMISSION: Tatterards £8; Course £1. CAE PAES: inside SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Linden's Lotto (2.95). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BAIS: None, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Leap in The Dark (2.40) has been sent 142 miles by Mrs. L.C. Siddell from Colon, North York-

1.05 MERRY HILL SHOPPING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 1f 110yds - 10 decigned -BETTENG: 4-7 Endings, 15-4 CERTON Commo, 5-1 Blair Costile, 14-1 Kind's

Cross, 16-1, Stage Player, 20-1 Curregle Poter, 50-1 others

1.35 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds 0.79 CURRENIAND YOUTH (312) Mes C Care 6 11 0 _ | Lang ELENYOUS C Marin 7 11 0 ______ I Mages 6-00 PRENO (66) K Baley 6 11 0 _____ W MePari 1 RHS OF CAMELOT (49) D Microson 7 11 0 __ R Microson (3) 35-P260 WINTER ROSE (101) Miss P White 6 11 0. __ K Hibbert (7)

- 6 Sectored SECTION: 4-11 King Of Carnelet, 100-90 France, 7-1 Winter Rose, 20-1
Eigenbrus, 68-1 Camberland Youth

Graham Bradley is appealing against the twoday ban he received at Leicester for carcless riding on Wednesday. Bradley is due to miss next Friday and Saturday, which would prevent him from riding Champion Hurdler Collier Bay in the Champion trial at Towcester.

2.05 A.H.P. TRAILERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 5f 110yds

— 10 declared —

ELTING: FORECAST: 11-4 Distractive, 7-2 Artic Wings, 4-1 Merry Parto, 11-2 Geltino, 13-2 Seed Riggs, 7-1 The Catamans, 12-1 Seedont, 14-1 Linden's Lotto, 16-1 Over The Pole, 20-1 Royal Segman

2.35 HARTSHORNE MOTORS H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f 110yds 43-409-6 SARTH TOO (2) Mos J Person 9 15 12 _______ & Hogen (3) 41-3233 SELVER STANDARD (11) (CD) T Forstor 7 11 3 ____ S Wynne 3 3213-00 CAMEDO (USA) (X1) M Bonks 11 10 2 ______ D Skyrme

- 8 declared -BETTING: FORSCAST: 4-6 Silver Standard, 15-8 South Too, 8-1 Cambo

3.05 RICHARDSON'S MERLIN PARK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m

7 O'1-153 COLETES CHODE (12) 6 Hom 8 10 13 _____ D Forti (3) 8 0/2364-0 DARA'S COLERSE (15) Mes P Whote 8 10 13 _____ D Forti (3) ____ 8 declared ___ Best Colers, 12-1 Postcher, 9-4 Parahandy, 4-1 Top Jevelle, 12-1 Colethr's Choice, 14-1 Sig Archie, George Ashford, 18-1 Dara's Course, 20-1 Demaine De Pron

3.40 STRATFORD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 200200 MILLENGIM LASS (9) Med N Rowland 9 11 10 ... Gury Lymn
427-325 PEDALTOTHEMETAL (42) P Motored 9 11 10 ... Gury Lymn
427-325 PEDALTOTHEMETAL (42) P Motored 9 11 10 ... Gury Lymn
427-325 PEDALTOTHEMETAL (42) P Motored 9 11 19 ... D Balledow
64325-0 RAYER WYE (112) G Yardey 5 11 7 ... Y Saidary
1,764-04 FONTANEROUSE (47) G Balding 7 11 4 ... B Feetbarr
3PP0-41 LITTLE SHEPFURD (16) M Muggandge 5 11 3 ... Limnson
03-00 CADES BAY (126) N THEMETAL (11 ... D Foot (3)
333200 LEAP IN THE DARK (14) Med; L Soldal 8 11 0 ... D Foot
455202 SIGNAM (18) B DATH A 11 0 ... D Ladar
455202 SIGNAM (18) B DATH A 11 0 ... D Ladar

997 . THE INDEP

have changed now I believe Near is going to be the less than the second to be the se A few to the translation of the Johnson Walter Co.

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tieres brook Schole adde from the lumb, the round hades Las W. 5 - mass the defer equipplicate open a pres Martin Control of Control of St. 1882. Interpretation of the Material of the Hole Scores, Digest, pg rigi× BARETON MOOR HANDICAP DE ALASE BI £12,000 added 2m 4 10; 10 to 10 to 10 to

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STORE IN SEC. 1 STREET ! the bearing it The second secon

Hill to be overshadowed by Summit The original nine-strong entry for tomorrow's Hearness try for town try for t

For at least six weeks, ever since the Siberian winds arrived to disrupt every training programme from Cornwall to Middieham, the front end of betting on the Cheltenham Gold Cup has been boringly familiar. Take a last look at it this morning, however, since the next two days could leave many bookmakers with writer's cramp, as prices are revised and then scribbled out

with each turn of events. Four of the first six names in William Hill's Gold Cup list, Imperial Call, Coome Hill, Dorans Pride and The Grey Monk, will face the starter over the weekend. The good news for British punters is that most will be avail-

SANDOWN 12.45: SIMPLY DASHING, who scored another bloodless victory when coasting home 10 lengths clear of Ballyline over 2m 4f at Haydock, is a smart chaser in the make toots, is a smart chaster in the maxing, Aardwolf, 1½ lengths third to Djeddah in the Grade One Feltham Novices' Chase at Kempton, drops in class and looks the danger.

1.20: CHIEF'S SONG, not entirely disgraced in finishing 1214 lengths fifth to Make A Stand in the Lanzarote Handicap Hardle at Kempton, has less to do here. Double Symphony may pose most problems.

Cup at Leopardstown is to be squeezed into BBC2's coverage of snooker and bowls. Today, though, Coome Hill,

Walter Dennis's winner of the other Hennessy at Newbury in November, attempts to give 4lb and upwards to an excellent field in the Agfa Diamond Chase. Coome Hill's position in the Festival betting, second-favourite at around 6-1 and two points shorter than Ooe Man, is something of an affront to strict form students. They point out that his victory at Newbury came from

a handicap mark of just 136. It is another measure of how far he oeeds to go to reach the lop flight that, had Unguided Missile, a 25-1 chance for the Gold Cup, taken his chance to-

HYPERION'S

L50: MAJOR SUMMIT, a short-

head second to Aardwolf here last time, is well handicapped. Hennessy

winner Coome Hill has gone up the

weights and Avro Anson, a length third to Jodami in the Peter Marsh Limited Handicap Chase over 3m at Haydock, looks more threatening.

(Sandown 2.25) ally," Tim Dennis, the trainer o son, said yesterday. "The Hennessy was only his second race in open handicap company, and I can't understand how he's shortened so much. We'll find

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Edetweis Du Moulin

(Wetherby 3.15)

NB: Mr Kermit

out a lot more at Sandown." The Agfa Chase did not originally figure on Coome Hill's itinerary, but the lack of rain -

2.25: ERZADJAN, 9 lengths clear of 2.25: ERZADJAN, y lengus crean of the third when a head second to Nick The Beak over 2m 7f at Wetherby, has conditions in his favour and looks fairly handicapped. Mr Ker-mit, another well treated on his best form, may prove the biggest threat.

CHEPSTOW 1.15: With Senor El Betrutti best racing right-handed, General Pershing coming back from a lengthy absence, Sound Reveille yet to recapture his Sound Reveile yet to recapture as form of two years ago and the novice Mariners Mirror with plenty to prove on ground as fast as this, the progressive DENVER BAY looks the answer. The course-specialist Bells Life may chase him home.

ble's hand. "We'd be happier if emergence of Josh Gifford's At Dennis's yard, too, there is some puzzlement over their there was a bit of cut in the string from a lean spell. A ground," Dennis said, "but he's horse who narrowly beat Major runner's elevation in the betting markets. "We're all baffled, regot to have a run before the Gold Cup and 1 can't foresee any rain for some time, if at all. It's pretty desperate stuff."

If Coome Hill truly deserves to be second-favourite for the Gold Cup, and not merely a tal
The handicap hurdle is much ented and interesting 16-1 chance, he surely must win today. It may be instructive, though, that Dennis feels that "hopefully, after this weekend the pressure might be off us a little bit." This is a lough as-

any value surely lies elsewhere. Major Summit (next best 1.50), who gets 13lb from the top weight, makes far more an-

twice under Rules but has also wor 11 times from 13 completed starts in point-to-points. This testing trip and a 5lb mares' allowance tilts this and a 310 mares allowance this this in her favour over Eulogy, who has smart placed form but disappointed when given a winning opportunity last time, and the soft-ground per-formers Hurdante and Menesonle.

2.15: There is hardly a runner in this field that would not prefer the go-ing here characteristically soft. FULL OF OATS may be less in-convenienced than most, while Dakyns Boy is well handicapped af-ter a single run following an absence.

LEOPARDSTOWN - Sunday

(Grade 1) £94,000 added 3m £59,000

3.40 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP CHASE PBC2

8 1112-11 THE GREY MONK (9-9) (9) (97) 6 Richards (20) 911 0 R Dummonds

- 8 declared - A Bobbia

- 8 declared - R Dummonds

- 9 declared - R Dummonds

- 9 declared - R Dummonds

- 9 declared - R Dummonds

- 12-1 Belmont King, 50-1 Idiots Venture, 66-1 King 07 The Gales

1998: Imperiol Cal 7 11 0 C O'Dayer 4-1 (F Sutherland) 8 run

Chieff's SONG has shown he can get up this hill, he acts on fast ground and has twee won conditions races. Another plus is his Kernpton run after the freeze when he was always outpaced by Make A Stand – as he was previously by the Pipe horse in Space Trucker's made at Chelenham. The good would appear against Dooble Symphony jurged on winning from it Ireland, but she is in here with a 10th allowence. That is not bed for a useful notice cheer who would have beeten Venturia Corpin at the Punchestown Festivel but for clouding the last, Double Symphony's hundles form was not brilliant — fifth to Anasha in The Ladbroke and 12th to Tourist Attraction at the Chellenham Festivel – but she has won when fresh, Charles Bronke along runs of the first of a post first part and runs from the Chellenham Festivel – but she pas won when fresh, Charles Bronke along runs of when years and may seed in one Servick in newsomer out of Henry Cheeff's uport. He last with west stand.

The Books also runs Florid, a newcomer out of Henry Cecifs yard. He last win was garded from Jural on Guneas day, lonio is back over the minimum after a poor showing at Docasae (2m4f) last Sabaday, it is not certain he can be trusted to bounce back to his Sea Oricot from, while Ground Mut is just a handicapper and herd to fancy meeting Chief's Song on bed terms. Dutunt thes test ground, but this ex-lohn Gooden performer, who fatched a 100,000gns at the sales, looks too highly tred.

Selections CHIEF'S SONG

1.50 AGFA DIAMOND LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £30,000 3m 110yds

BETTING: 5-2 Coome HM, 3-1 Go Ballistic, 7-2 Auro Auton, 5-1 Major Summit, 8-1 Dextra Dove,

FORM GUIDE

Avro Ansona is a well handicapped off 1.43 bearing in mind Addington Boy won the Tripleprint at Cheltenham off 15.2. Awro Anson bustled up the Richards' norse at Aintree last March when receiving 3ib, so it was no real surprise he did so well in his first handicap a fortnight ago when a close third to Jodanni and Unguided Missile. Neuroec Carrector reported beforehand that Anno Anson would need the run and his chance looks bright today with the gound so very much to his liking. But the Hennessy winner COOME HILL does concade Avro Anson just 4ib. Coome Hill would be expected to beat Unguided Missile on any day when getting 1.3th – something which Awo Anson telled to do at Heydock. Coome Hill has won on fastish ground and the Hannessy form with Deatra Dowe on 1.1b worse terms should be confirmed. A win today by 66 Ballistic will see him in the Gold Cup line-up. He has his ground and today will show if he can produce the form away from his swounts course Ascor, where he took advantage of a 25th concession from Unguided Missile six weeks ago, in great heart, 66 Ballistic has the same son of chance at these weights as Avro Anson on the lines through Unguided Missile. Misjor Summit really wants more cut in the ground and this surface could be even lester than when he just bled against Aardwolf here in Decomplex, Northern Hilde does not appeal as being good enough.

Selections COOME HILL

2.25 TOTE BOOKMAKERS SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £40,000 2m 6f

1996: Autrak Express 9 10-7 M A Fitzgerald 11-2 (N Henderson) 3 ran

more inviting, and Charlie Mann's TARRS BRIDGE (nap 2.25) is the one to back, Blink-

ers improved him considerably at Cheltenham last time, he goes well fresh and prefers a sound surface, all of which makes him signment for Coome Hill, and an outstanding bet at the Tote's any value surely lies elsewhere. card holds little of interest, with Dakyns Boy (2.15) the when the only runner to make any appeal. Monday.

ing for Sandown and the recent

Summit earlier this year, Aard-

wolf (12.45), should emphasise

his chance in the opening race,

the best option in a very disap-

while Ground Nut (1.20) looks

Gold Cup has been reduced to eight by Michael Hourigan's decision to divert Dorans Pride to a less competitive novice chase (although, with See More Business among his rivals, it will certainly not be a Sunday stroil).

The Hennessy is still an exceptional race, however, and Imperial Call will need to be close to his Gold Cup-winning best to prevail. With The Grey Monk, runner-up to Coome Hill in November, also offering a form-line to the rest of the market, this contest could all but determine the prices on Gold Cup morning itself. Expect to see Imperial Call firmly barricaded into the favourite's slot when the betting shops open on

Hores (Transresent) Arre Anson (M Camacho 11:18th) 9-4 Coome HE (W Dennis 11:(12ib) 11-4 3-1 100-30 7-2 Go Ballistie (10 Sheat 11st) 11-7 Major Summit u Giford (10sr13b) Desire Dove (S Earle 11:52(b) 7-1 8-1 7-1 Northern Kilde (M Salaman 10stf4b) 9-1 10-1 10-1 _11-1 Esch-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2

Agfa Limited Handicap Chase - Sandown 1.50

| Sandown Handica | p Hurd | le - San | down 2.1 | 25 | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|----------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Horse (Trainer westit) | Coral | William Hill | | Tota | | | | | |
| Transport Toll (J.M. Jeferson 1 1st 1b) | 100-30 | 3-1 | 1-2 | 3.1 | | | | | |
| Yahani Li Ole: 10st12ibi | 11-4 | 100-30 | 3-1 | 4-1 | | | | | |
| Erzadian (Mrs M Reveley 11s12lb) | 21-2 | 11-2 | 11.2_ | 41 | | | | | |
| Receivery Pete (M Pipe/10st12lbl | 8-1 | 8-1 | 9-1 | 9-1 | | | | | |
| Tens Bridge (C Mann 20st9lb) | 10-1 | B-1 | 7-1 | _11_1 | | | | | |
| Lockmathin (Nrs M Reveloy/10st12 | b) 11-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 | | | | | |
| Fired Earth (J. Farshave 11st4b) | 24-1 | 14-1 | 12-1 | 14-1 | | | | | |
| Output (M Hammond/10st12ib) | 14-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 12:1 | | | | | |
| Burnt kep (G M Moore 11st5tb) | 16-1 | 16-1 | 16-1 | 20-1 | | | | | |
| Then (J. Jenkons/10st3lb) | 20-1 | 18-1_ | 1B-1 | 16-1 | | | | | |
| Legadowne (P Nicholls/10st12lb) | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 141 | | | | | |
| Depress Gift (Mrs M Revoley/11st10 | bi 33-1 | 33-1 | 33.1_ | 33_1 | | | | | |
| Mr Kermit (A J Wilson/10st13fb) | _25-1_ | 28-1 | 33:1_ | 33-1 | | | | | |
| Each-way a quar | Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 | | | | | | | | |

Pipe dream vanishes

Martin Pipe's attempt to go through Taunton's seven-race card yesterday fell at the first hurdle. The champioo trainer, who sponsored the card, still managed a 363-1 four-timer of through Indian Jockey, D'Naan, Banntown Bill and Maid Equal.

Pipe saddled three candidates for the opening novices' hurdle, with Break The Rules faring best in finishing second to Easy Listening. "Trn not deflat-ed," Pipe said. "It was an im-has attracted 15 runners.

possible task, but it's an ambition of mine to go through the card one day and we'll try again." Just three horses, Sound Man, Big Matt and Stroog Promise have been entered to take on One Man in the Comet Chase at Ascot on Wednesday. Mark Johnston's Celestial Key (Darryll Holland) runs in the Christoffel-Bao Trophy at St Moritz tomorrow, a nine furlong

| Hennessy Cog | nac Gol | d Cup Ch | ase (3m) | |
|--|---------|------------------------|--------------------|------|
| Horse (franer) Imperial Call (F Sutherland) | Correl | Williams Hill evens | Ladhrokes evens | Tota |
| The Grey Monk (G Richards) | 7-2 | 100-30 | 100-30 | 3.1 |
| Jodanii (P Beaumont) | 9.2 | 9.2 | 11-2 | 9-2 |
| Danoll (T Foley) | 9-1 | 8-1 | 8-1 | 10-1 |
| Marry Gale (J Dreaper) | 9-1 | 9.1 | 9-1 | 10-1 |
| Belmont King (P Nichold) | 12-1 | 12-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 |
| Idiots Venture (A O'Brien) | 66-1 | 66-1 | 28-1 | 50-1 |
| King Of The Gales (A Moore) | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 |

With the Jim Old horses in such cracking form YAHIMI has to take the beeting after an impressive Newbury novice win and a game course success from Jack Tarmer, Merket neal Tellymenry Toff also handles this ground and cruised home at Haydock in November. On the upgrade, he will strip fresh and well and his stable went close to notching a double on Thursday, Tarms Bridge won a novice very easily when tried in binkers at Chettenham – that success from Soutifiem Nights proving his Heing for fast ground. Exzedjain is a bit of a thinker who progressed to land a hat-trick last season. He should cope with the ground and looks another sure to figure after a good Wetherby run nine days ago and with his stable in such fine form. Fixed Earth his plenty of weight, while the ground looks too fast for Burnt lamp and Outbert, Mir Kermali's lay-off is off putting, the course may prove too grow the first. Burnt surposed to the proving the prove that says are sayed the finish.

may Peter is totally at home on this ground and could be banging away at the finish chard Dunwoody booked after his Cheltenham second to Elburg, Selection; YAHM 3.00 RIPLEY HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds

- 10 dec

3.30 ELMBRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £9,500 added 2m Penalty Value £6,440

4.05 FEBRUARY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £3,087

HETING: 8-1 Granhum Pidde, 7-2 Riding Crop, 4-1 El Freddie, 6-1 Denordilyoutrop, 7-1 Commy Tarquin, 8-1 Campus Man, 12-1 Acetic Triumpis, Lord Khalico, 16-1 Biocing Miscie, Red Straus, 20-1

added 7f

3.40 JERVIS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900

4.15 AYLISH FANE-SAUNDERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 5f

Afrikuum weight: 7st 10h. Fire handkap weight: Musturg 7st 7b. HETTARE: 100-30 Westenbambles, 7-2 Classy Chief, 6-1 Ramson Kindness 8-1 Nandap, 7-1 Musturg, 8-1 Chez Catalon, 10-1 Tanlyar, 12-1 others

- & declared -BETTING: 11-4 Mr Neversied, 4-1 Tués Crosics, 5-1 Speedy Chesic, 6 Pistol, 13-2 Jo Masthaus, 7-1 Krystal Max, 9-1 Mr Frosty, 14-1 Fer

__L Henry

11-2322 GALES CAVALER (1-9 ID) Starletz Record D Candotto 9 11 13.

211411 SUPER TACROS (15) (D) (H V Peny) R Ahrer 9 10 3.
4125-41 WEE RIVER (15) (D) (Sean Gahard) G M Moore 6 10 0.
210/211 CERTAINLY STRONG (286) (CD) (Nick Stefan) O Nichokon 7 10 0.

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Web River 9st 10th, Certainly Strong 9st 9th. BETTENIC 2-1 Certainly Strong, 5-4 Gales Covalier, 11-4 Wee River, 7-2 Super Tactics 1996: High Swon 9 10 13 R Dunmoody 6-1 (R Hodges) O min

1-5 ARCHIC TRIUMPH (68) (David Holman) M Bradsmick 6 11 7.

8 10- GRANHWAR PRIDE (335) 6 M.S Racing K Batoly 7 11 7
24 LORD MIALIDE (68) 6 Alubom's 6 Hubon'd 6 11 7
8 550-080 PHYSIGAL RIN (5) (A 6 Blackmorel A Blackmorel 8 11 7
0 04 RED BRONZE (68) (Tony Romby C Banest 5 11 7
10 35-25 EXDING CROP (64) (The Bantow Boya) N Honderson 7 11 7
11 64-4052 BLAZING MIRACLE (15) 94's R O Honderson Mar R Hendeson 5 11 2

Penalty Value £3,518

Our Father, Balancetta, 14-1 MacHords, 20-1 others. 1996: Debusants Doys 4 20 5 J Tigey 13-2 (Miss H Knight) 14 ran

CHEPSTOW

HYPERION 2.50 Little Hooligan 3.20 Indian Tracker .15 Denver Bay 1.45 Korbell 2.15 Full Of Oats Left hand, undatating course with run-in of 2 flyths.

I fourse is on A466. Chepatow station (Cardif - Gouerster line) I in. ADMISSION:
Club S14; Tanersalis S10 (CAPs S5). CAR PARK: Free. SIS

ELEADING TEAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe — MI winners from 185 runners gree a success ratio of 27.7% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 57.41; N Toriston-Davies — 21 symers, 100 runners, 21.7%, +510.7; P Hobbe — 18 symers, 70 runners, 22.7%, +510.10; O Nicholson — 16 symers, 18 runners, 23.7%, +50.10; O Nicholson — 16 symers, 11.1 rides, 25.7%, +50.41; A P McCoy — 21 symers, 7.1 rides, 23.7%, +50.41; A P McCoy — 21 symers, 7.1 rides, 23.7%, +27.43; C Liewellyn — 16 symers, 82 rides, 16.7%, -517.49; BIPKEERED 157 TIME: Wide Support (viscord) 2.70; WINNERS IN LAST 7 DAYS, Now-LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS; Voung Kenny (1.45) has been sent 220 miles by 19 featurent from Branchedy, North Vorsbure

| [3 | L.15 | BBC CEEFAX AND MARCIA-ANN COOPER HCAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 2m 3f 110yds |
|-----|------------|--|
| • | 3EP-435 | SOUND REVENUE (14) (this G Abecastes) C Brooks 9 12 D |
| ÷ | 3174172 | GENERAL PERSHANG (652) LI E Potteri O Micholson 11 12 D |
| ร | D16.503 | SENOR FL BETRUTH (15) (D) (Gerard Nocks Mrs 5 Nock 8 11 12 C thewally |
| 7 | 110.00 | TERAD (49) (B A Kalpatrok) M Pipe 11 11 6 |
| 5 | 112 152 | BELLS LIFE (12) (CD) (R Gobs) P Hotes 8 11 4 |
| - | 112-103 | MARBUERS MIRROR (42) (D) (F) Milks N Twiston-Directs 10 10 11 |
| ē | 20-3111 | MANDERS MINORIA (-C) (0) (: 1 MINI N 1000) PARCE TO TO THE TAIL OF |
| 7 | | DENVER BAY (56) (86 Naytor) J Gallott 10 10 11 |
| 8 | PLLFFU | BO KNOWS BEST (49) (CD) (David Humphreyst G L Moore 8 10 8 |
| 0 | 231753 | |
| 10 | 14355-5 | SPEK THE FAITH (USA) 051) (C) (OF) (R H F Monthews) M Sheppard 8 10 D B Powell |
| 11 | 33-13/0P | BENLAMAN LANCASTER (12) (C) (M Grifin) M Grifin 11 10 0 |
| _ | 20- | - 11 decisred - |
| 160 | incom wald | he silve Turn boorteen weight Banismin Lancourer Set diff. |

serroum weight: 10st, The transcap weight Denjamin Lanuarier Set III.
BETTINK: 100-30 Bolis Life, 3-2 Terms, 11-2 Denver Bay, 6-1 Mariners Mittor, 8-1 General Pershing, Seek The Falth, Sener El Betrutti, 12-1 Sound Reveille, 16-1 Conti D'Estromi, 20-1 Bo Knows Seet, 25-1 Benjamin Lanuarier

Beills Life has two wins over the course and distance to his credit and he ran really well behind stablemate Orswell Lad at Newton About, TeRAO finished fourth behind Sounds Strong in that race, and although the margin of his defeat (21 lengths) might seem a long way, he was in front at the third last and was running his best race this season after taking useful company in two previous outings. Terao has been dropped Sib, which is only 26 more than when he best Turning Trix of Newbury (2m4f) last February, Sound Reveille is down 10th since the season but is sail struggling to find his form, which senior II Betrustri is not proving co-operative the season. He probably needs to go inglined, Mariners Milmor continues in fine form and certainly is not out of it, despite being a nowce taking on seasoned handcappers.

Selection: TERAO

| [| .45 | PRESTIGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade BBC1 2) £15,000 3m Penalty Value £9,915 |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1 | 34-1P12 | EDGEWOOR PRINCE (16) (The Racing Hares) P Hobbs 8 11 3 C Mande |
| 2 | | BEST OF FREE NOS (66) (Jan McGran) Mess H Kright 7 11 0 |
| 3 | | DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL (18) (BF) (Domen C Mercen) O Nicholson 6 11 D D Bridgester |
| 4 | 253-330 | EULOGY (12) (BF) (Nicholas Cooper) R Rowe 7 11 0 |
| 5 | 241-201 | HURDANTE (11) (UA Consultants 1td) G Balding 7 11 0 |
| 6 | 5253-42 | MENESONAC (84) (Mrs. W H World) R Alner 7 11 0 |
| 7 | 20-14F1 | SCOTEY (BEL) (12) (Mrs E 8 Gardineri R Buckler 7 11 0 |
| 8 | 5423-3 | TRIY (USA) (1) (Cheadle Rooms) A Specier 7 11 0 |
| 9 | 331-54 | WARNER FOR PLAYERS (57) (RF) (Terry Warner Sports) P Hobbs 6 11 0C Liewellyn |
| 10 | 0FU321 | YOUNG KENNY [18] (D) U G Read) P Beaumont 6 11 0 |
| 11 | | NORBELL (18) (D) (K) Machell P Nicrott 8 10 9 |

BETTING: 7-2 Destin D'Estreval, 4-1 Hardsode, 5-1 Young Keeny, 23-2 Enlogy, 7-1 Korball, 10-1 Best Of Friends, Edgemoor Prince, 12-1 Menesonic, Scotby, 20-1 Warser For Players FORM GUIDE

HURDANTE, having run too freely when bearen length by Mimela Man here in November on his fluxding debut (2m 4f 11.0yd), could not handle the tight bend when only seventh behind Shanshogh at Haydock. But it was a different story at Lettester last time and Hurdante proved for more amenable, leading at the fourth lest and strolling away for an essy with. Destin D'Estinayal, who had decent form over fences in France, has so far been legit to hurding. He tinistica 25 lengths clear of Royal Event, when louched off by Rough Chart it Entergone on the first offerent and alternative during the Venet Kern steel out in Venet Kern. Quest at Followsone on his first attempt, and again aust missed out to Young Kenny and Moraecot in a driving finish over this trip at Leicester. He had looked the winner at thi liest and, despite meeting the winner Gib worse, may have the greater scope. Korbell wor an earlier chapson of that Leicester race, but it tooled the weaker leg and this winning and to-orier mate may have not be match her.

| | 2.15 | JOHN HUGHES GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL H'CAP BBC1 CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 3m 5f 110yds |
|----|------------|--|
| • | | KILLESHEN (16) OH J Mennessi H Manners 11 11 10 |
| ŝ | | PLYER'S NAP (12) (R J 701) R Ares 11 11 7 D Stidenster |
| 3 | | DAKYNS BOY (56) (Man Parker) N Truston-Daves 11 11 1 |
| 4 | | FULL OF OATS (15) (D) (I O MacDoreld) Mass H Augus 11 10 11 Cullety |
| 5 | | SUNLEY BAY (16) (Mrs Mananne G Barner) P Nicholis 11 10 11 |
| 8 | | SPUFFERGION (8) (C) Union Clopet) J Grand 9 10 4 |
| 7 | | SEE ENOUGH (12) U.A.G. Mendeny R Bucker O 10 1 |
| 8 | 19/343-P | DISTELATION (16) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 12 10 0 |
| | | - B declared - |
| 40 | nimum weld | te- 10et Toje krindlese wekte Distillation Tel 10th |

Minimum weight: 10st. The handicap weight Desilation 7st 10th.

BETTING: 7-4 Full Of Onto, 4-1 Dakques Boy, 9-2 Sunday Bay, 6-1 Plyer's Noy, 8-1 Spuffington
10-1 See Emangh, 14-1 Millechin, 50-1 Distinction

Dakyns Boy came through off a strong hace to take second behind Samlee over three fundings less here in December. That was a tremendous comeback after missing last season, though no less eyecationing was Fill.L OF OATS, who stayed on over the last three and would have edged out Nigol Twiston-Davies' 12-year-old in another stride. Last seasons to the contract of th and would have edged our hige! Twiston-Darker 12-year-old in another stride. Last season, Full Of Oats nouthed three strongt wirs at Warwick the first by 20 lengths from Milledhin, and there is a fair chance he can collect the prove of a mark only 5th higher than the lovest win. Ritisahin, who showed startling improvement after that Warwick run, has retreated into his shell again and Suntiny Bay has a for better chance. The give ran with credit considering the last ground behind Woodlands Genhire at Taunton (4m2P) last time - Niethan and Distillation tailed off. Rain would give him a chance. Selection: FULL OF DATS 2.50 POACHERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2.500 added 2m 110vds Penaity Value £2.192

| ſ | _ | | ELIOU audeu ziii Lipyus Felially Yada Lejise |
|---|----|----------|---|
| ı | 1 | 6043-23 | FORTANICYS (46) (D) (M A DOYE) G McCourt O 11 10 |
| ı | 2 | 32104-0 | NEVER SO BLUE (45) (D) (P J Bradley) P Bradley 6 11 9Sophie Mitchell (5 |
| ł | 3 | UFO. | WIDE SUPPORT (5) (D) (A Moore) 8 L Moore 11 11 5 |
| ı | 4 | 451405 | LITTLE HOOLIGAN (18) (BF) IA G Feat) R Hodges 6 11 1 |
| ı | 5 | 2-06220 | LIME STREET BLUES (11) (Chellerinem Racing Ltd) C Smots 6 11 () M Berry (7) 6 |
| ľ | 6 | | KHATER (CAN) (45) (D) (Frank A Farrant) M Poe 6 10 13 |
| ŀ | 7 | 5052P-6 | JONGAS CHUDLEIGH (78) (D) (R O Frost) R Frost 10 to 13 |
| ı | 8 | 0-10140 | URBAN LILY (9) (Mrs C J Cole) R Hodges 7 10 11 |
| ı | 9 | 522-053 | STREET-POSE (47) (D) Four Sex Racing Club! 9 Lievelyn 7 10 11htr J 1, Lievellyn |
| ı | 10 | 0-046 | TEE TEE TOO (16) (Study Study) A Carol 5 10 10 M Cristins (7) |
| ŀ | 11 | | SCOTTISH WEDDING (43) (G A Westman, Reynolds 6 Deart T Vall 7 10 10 R Johnson |
| ı | 11 | FF0:05P- | DEEP ISLE (325) (Poinck Hammglory 8 Lieuchyn 11 10 10 |
| ı | | | MICK THE YANK (387) P JR Gardnert H Oliver 7 10 8 |
| ı | 14 | 544/POP | BELL AND WIN (44) (D) (S H Pickering) T Visit 6 10 0 |
| | | | |

14 544-POP BELLAND WIN 149 (D) (S H PIDSENG) 1989 6 10 0 AD
5 OUP ANDTHERONE TO NOTE (1559 6 1) Manners H Manners 6 LOO AD
16 0000 HAMMARFA (150) Goud Hammerson 1 5 Moore 4 10 0 S
17 42900P GREER (247) (D N Carey) 10 Carey 10 Ca — 17 declared —

Agricum: 10st, Big And Wa 9st 12b, Angelerne To Nore 9st 9b, Howanath 9st 7b, Gibert 9st 4b
BETTING: 4-1 Fentamys, 9-2 Writen Lly, 11-2 Line Street Blass, 19-2 Little Hoodigns, 7-1 Scottisk Worlding, 8-1 Jogus Chadleigh, 10-1 Restir, 14-1 Black The York, String A Poss, 15-1 Howanath,
Tee Ton Yoo, 20-1 Gilbert, 25-1 others

| 1 | |
|------|--|
| | 3.20 TONY PRESTON ASPIRING CHAMPIONS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m Penalty Value £5,412 |
| | 1 411F-11 BARONET (71) (D) (Mrs David Thompsony D Nicholson 7 11 11 |
| | 2 20/22-11 BERUDE NOT TO (50) (D) (G Addiscott) O Sherwood 6 11 11 |
| | 3 5060-21 FOODBROKER STAR (48) (D) (Food Biolers Line) Giffort 7 11 11 |
| | 4 1 CREDO IS KING (56) (61 Pone) P Webber 7 11 7 |
| | 5 DS21-1 MENAN TRACKER (43) (Ice & Joanne Retorne) M Poe 7 11 7 C Mande |
| - 1 | 6 OPO DECIRA (64) (Decira Lighting Systems) 5 Earle 7 11 7 |
| 15.1 | |
| ш | 7 S-21524 KENDAL CAVALIER (12) (Nichel Wingleid Duchi G Baiding ; 11.2 |
| - | 8 1200-PP MAJOR NOVA (47) BAS GC LSO N Smith 8 11 2 |
| | 9 12F0F0 CATS N BARLEY (10) IF A Landing P Rodical 6 11 2 B Powel |
| | 10 3036F4 PENNICALER (18) ON'S Amorto Taylori P Holds 7 11 2 |
| | 11 0:000P- SWIFT POWEY (245) (34ss 6 W Palmer) D Williams 7 11 2 M Clarke |
| | TI GOOD SHIPT PART PRODUCT FOR FOR PARTY FOR FAIR P |
| | 11 0/2141-P TENNESSEE TWIST (90) Understood International Ltd: Mrs. J. Petron 7 11 2 |
| | = 12 declared = |
| -1 | BETTING: 11-4 Berude Not To, 100-30 Indian Tracker, 5-1 Foodbroker Star, 6-1 Bureaut, 13-2 |

Grado la Mart. Tennacesco Turist, 14-1 Kondal Cavaller, 33-1 others. CLASS C) £5,000

| - 1 | Ŀ | 5.55 | added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,716 | o, 20,00 |
|-----|----|----------|---|---------------|
| : 1 | | | DREAMS END (14) (D) (T G Proc) P Bowen 9 11 0 | |
| | 2 | 5050-20 | KAQUISTROF (FR) (7) (D) M P Paters) R Dictor 7 11 11 | _X Alzouru (|
| ١ ١ | 3 | 53224-1 | WHITE WILLOW (47) (D) (Paul Strigger) 1 Wall 8 11 9. | R Massey (3) |
| | 4 | 211660 | BRAVE TORNADO (490) (D) (Mess 8 Share) G Baiding 6 11 0 | B Califo |
| | 5 | 0613-00 | ROS CASTLE (14) (D) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 8 11 8 | |
| • | Ğ | 47111-4 | CHAPRASSI (73) (BF) (B A Managelo M Pop 6 11 5 | C Mae |
| ; | 7 | | SLEW MAN (FR) (45) (D) (B A Kabagras) M Page 6 11 4 | |
| | 8 | 215-025 | MERCET (1/9 (D) (Mrs Ja Ernery) P Hobbs 10 11 2 | R Johnson |
| - 1 | 9 | 42261 F | COURT NAP (49) (D) (Sr Michael Cornell) S Mellor 5 10 10 | |
| - 1 | 10 | 2140-31 | AMELESIDE (40) (CD) (B M Yer) Mrs 6 Williams 6 10 10 | D Briddent |
| | 11 | E5100 | DOCTOOR (USA) (1039) (D) (Alted Walls) M Pine 7 10 6 | B Moore (|
| | 11 | 472/10-3 | BELL ONE (USA) (45) (8F) (Mrs.) P Selick) A Dunn 6 10 3 | S Melle |
| - 1 | 13 | 46/50-64 | REVER ISLAND (USA) (2) (D) (The White Haite Permandral J Old 9 10 0 | E Greeky (|
| ١ ١ | 14 | 64123P | PERMYMOOR PRINCE (47) (N W Lake) R Frost 8 10 0 | J Fro |
| . 1 | 15 | 22US-P0 | MANOLETE (11) (D) (C Flear) Ms M Jones 6 10 0 | M Lane (|
| e I | ~ | | - 15 declared - | |
| | 15 | 10- | Total branchista projector: District foliant (set 10th, December Delma Cor Dis. | demanded on T |

Minimum: 10st. True handings weights: River Island Sst. 10th. Permymotor Primes Scr. Sh., Mancies Sct. 7th. BETTING: S-2 Chapement, 11-2 Aminteclies, 6-1 Knebstreft, 13-2 Rell Own, 8-1 Drawner End. Shew (Apr., 10-5 Court May, William Willow), 12-2 Rosen Torondo, Kiberest, 14-1 Rose Castle, 16-1 Doc-toor, Mancieta, River Island, 25-1 Pennymone Primes

Implies priced where: Black Suppling 23-1 (1982) Tap Implies J. Hugerald (3): Special visuage (1989), Trainget (1993 and 1996) Top Joddey: M. Devjer (2): Special Visuage (1989), Trainget (1993) A abandoned: P. gulled up SANDOWN

oed wienes Miracio Man 3-1 (1995)

HYPERION 3.00 Society Magic 1.20 Chief's Song 3.30 Wee River 1.50 MAJOR SUMMIT (nap) 4.05 Country Tarquin 2.25 Erzadjan

GOING: Clares - Good to From Hurtler - Good (Good to From back straight).

Right-hand course; seven testing fences along back straight; run-in of 300yds.

Course is on A307, Am 3 of Kingston, Esher station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Gho 518 (17-2)yrs 514); Grandstand 511; Park 54, CAR PARK: \$2 in members (More Lanc), remainder free.

SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE - 10-YEAR-TALE

Profit or loss to £1 states, Percenties -£0.50. Second Percentes -£3,00 ---

enjointage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in previous race: 58%

Mars weight 8,10 102 1032 A 100 100 103 911 100 111

1985 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95

6 10 9 A 5 5 6 9 7 9

EFADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson — 30 winners from 86 num mers gives a success ratio of 34.9% and a profit to a £1 level stake of \$60.70; J T Gif-ford — 21 winners, 129 runners, 16.3%, \$1.14; M C Pipe — 10 winners, 59 runners, 16.9%, \$62.2; J A B Old — 7 winners, 32 runners, 21.9%, \$561.50. LEADING JOCKETS: E Danwoody—29 winners, 30 tides, 33.2%, 4543.10; A Magakre—20 winners, 86 rides, 23.3%, 514.20; J Oeborne—16 winners, 100 rides, 15%, 547.81; P Hide — 111 winners, 75 rides, 13.3%, 510.80.

BLINKERED PIEST TIME: Mecmorris (3,00). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Express Gift (2,25), Exandjan (2,25) & Locimagosia

| | | been sent 261 miles by Mrs M Beveley from Lingdale, Clevelin | |
|-----|--------------------|---|-------------|
| | 24 | SCILLY ISLES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £34,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £21,862 | CA |
| 1 2 | 5014-24 | AMBER VALLEY (45) (Berishire Commerces Components) O Williams 8 11 | 8A Thornton |
| 34 | 460-F1F 4-12221 | GROOVING (9) (Ars T Excen) J Getoxt 8 11 6 | Ceborne |
| ĕ | 11F111 | SEMPLY DASHING (14) (D) (Steve Harrmond) T Easterby 8 11 6 | R Danwood |

1986: Senor El Berrutt 7 11 6 6 Brodley 11-2 (Mrs S Mock) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

With Aardwolf sure to go a fast pace, the race will be set up for both SIMPLY DASHANG and Lend After. Simply Deshing came through the big test when seaming to oussay Or Royal at Ascot and that was the same race Senor El Betrutti won en route to lunding this lost year. Land After still has a turn of foot and is fineresting over the longer trip. Landing best will again hold him up for a late burst and it is hard to crash his razinow defeat by Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan bere three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan burst three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan burst three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan burst three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. Beaten by Danoil at Leopardstown and then too smart for Mutagan here three outings ago. FORM GUIDE

1.20 AGFA HURDLE (CLASS B) £15,000 added C4 2m 110yds Penalty Value £10,163 3P4-165 CHEFS SONG (14) (2D) (Ms Anne Desme) S Dow 7 11 4 4113-35 GROUND NUT (73) (0) (Ms R L Hasland) R Buckler 7 11 0 1 3P4-165 CHEF'S SONG (LA) (ED) (Ms Anne Deune) S Dow 7 11 4 P. R. Duzemody
2 4113-35 GROUND NUT (72) (0) (Ms R. I. Hoshma) R Buckler 7 11 0 P. Holley
3 124 (1996) (GAA) (7) (9) (Ms R. I. Hoshma) R Buckler 7 11 0 L. I. R. Kowtongh
4 00 DAURT (11) (Superest Ind & Form & Nathray Lay F Jordan 5 10 9 A. R. Thomton
5 PLORD (ISSA) (Lord Howard de Walter) C Books 8 10 9 A. Books
2 12F32 DOUBLE SYMPHONY (282) (7) (Walton) Pys-Leny) C Brooks 9 10 4 Doubne
- B declared BETTING: 11-10 Chief's Song, 4-1 Florid, 5-1 Dechie Symphony, 6-1 looks, 8-1 Decent, 10-1 Ground
but

1996: Atours 8 11 8 R Durwoody 8-11 (D Elsworth) 5 ran

LINGFIELD

1.30 Our Shaddee 2.00 Kalar 2.35 Dark Menace 3.10 Zurs 3.40 Mr Nevermind 4.15 Classy Chief

DRAW ADVANTANCE is the hand, sharp undulating course.

Equitases surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is S5 of town on B2028, Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) arijoins course. ADMISSION: One Enclosure \$2.

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Mediate (visored) (1.30), Tandyar

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS; Kaler (2.0) won at Wolver-

hampton on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Mustaing (4.15) has been sent

270 miles by C.W Thornton from Middlebarn, North Yorkshire; hap

North Yorkshire: Suchnotice (2.00) sent 268 miles by J Berry from

Express (3.00) see 270 miles by O M Moore from Middleha

STALLS: 51, 1m - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.

CAR PARK: (Jub 53; remainder free.

P111/IZ LOCHRAGRAIN (LS) (D) Budythody of Harriston (LS) Miss M Reseley 0 10 12 _____ & Lee (3) 3011-44 OUTSET (42) (D) (RF) (Mark Kilner) M Harristond 7 10 12 _____ Mir C Bosser (3)

130 PELLEW APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS

G) £2,875 added 1m

2.00 BLACKWOOD CLAHUNG STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

ico, 7-2 Hosvaniy Miss, 7-1 Hub Majestic,

apply. 250; 1. YACHT CILIB (C Elect) 10-1; 2. fax; 2. Max

- 6 deci BETTING: 5-4 Kalar, 11-4 Enchanties. 1

14.1 Ma Vinle Ponova, 23-1 hap Express

- 13 declared - Egyptic: 5-1 Tulyounry Toff, 4-1 Yoloni, Ezzafjan, 9-1 Time Biddge, 10-1 Rannany Peta, 12-1 Fixed Early, Locknegypts, Oxiset, 14-1 Lacedomes, 16-1 Tim, 20-1, Burst Imp, 28-1 Mr Hornit, 33-1 Expense Citt 1986: Transjot 9 11 1 R Duracody 6-1 (J FluScrebt) 14 mn

Projektel Pun 1996: Whattabob 7 11 7 M A Regerald 2-1 (N Handerson) 20 ran 2.35 COCHRANE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f

40/08-00 BENCHT PARAGON (7) 03 (D) K kov 8 9 5.

| 4000405 | 15662 | PERT LUC (149) | 1540525 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 905 | 9 = 9 declared = BETTING: 15-8 Dark Mennes, 8-1 Thick As Thieves, 11-2 hory's Grab Hen, 13-2 Str Tesien; 8-1 Superinc, 10-1 Southern Dominios, 16-1 Bright Purages, 20-1 Veccey, 33-1 Logic Part Lad

3.10 DICKIE WILLMOTT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 05200-0 HAUTE CLUSURE (28) R Williams 4 9 0 03234- ZURS (135) Man Gay Yellowsy 49 0.

BETTERS: 4-9 Zers, 6-1 Misky Bay, 13-2 Racher's Rock, 7-1 Radolphine,

8 RACHEL'S ROCK (US) G L Moore 489... - 5 declared -

Jahmeld 9-1; 3. Seymore 4-1 jt fav. 14 ma. 4-1 jt fav in A Moment (4th). 1, 3. U L Eyre). Total: £12.50; £3.20, £3.90, £4.40. DP: £70.60. CSP: £100.21. Tricest: £402.19. Trice

SOUTHWELL

2011 Total: £1.90; £3.90, £1.10. DF: £3.90, CSF: £3.94. 2.40: 1 SPRITZER (F Leerly) 5-1; 2. Take Cover 12-1; 3. Nordie Prince 5-1, 15 cm. 5-2 (w Artina (6m), 11, 3½, () Fit Gerald). Totac £6.10; £2.60, £2.30, £1.90, OF. £28.00, CSP £56.25, Tato £19.00, NR: Radwood Lad. No 10 Redwood Lad (200-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not

6-1.8 ran. 3, 1½. (P Hastam), Totat £2.20; £1.10, £1.50, £2.70. DP: £8.50. CSF: £10.01. Tricast: £38.91. 3.20; 1. SEA SPOUSE (N Adema) 11-1; 2. Rousel 5-1; 2. Captain's Day 7-7, 13 ran. 6-5 by Prioto Prima. ½, ½, (M Slernstril. Totat: £15.00; £3.40, £3.10, £1.10. DP: £23.90. CSP: £63.99, Tricast: £391.13. Trics £145.60.

Placepot: £119.80. Quadrot: £100.80. Place 8: £88.71. Place 5: £87.05.

TAUNTON

1.46: 1. EASY LISTENING (I Railor) 14-1:
2. Break The Rules 16-1; 3. Meramang 4-1.
13 mas, 5-4 few Holt The Clouds, 2, 4, 0;
Nawle), Teler £17-30; £2-30, £3-90, £1-80.
DF: £63.50. CSP: £189.25, Truc £191.30
toert work.

11-10 fax: 2. Exercition fine Ltd 13-2; 3. Section of Denter 7:1. 10 fax: 1, ½, (D Nichole), Tobic: £2.40; £1.40, £2.30, £1.40. DF: £3.50; £.9. £5.50;

| LINGFIELD 1.30: 1. CHERRUL ASPECT IN Williamson) 6-1; 2. Eta Agrapi Mou 22-1; 2. Pleasure- tend 7-1. 12 ran. 15-8 fev Red Ray (5th). 10. 2. IT Forster, Downton). Toba: £5.30, £3.00, £3.50, £1.90. Dr: £457.40. CSF: £1.46.90. Tho: £121.10 (part word). | Iris, Royston), Total EE.80, 21 (1), 2 | 2. Shepatros Heet 11-4; Deny Sport and 12-1.6 ran. 5-2 fav Friendly House (Shi), 8, 7, (6 L Moore, Brighton), Tote: £5.00; £1.90, £1.90, DF; £9.80, CSF; £15.77, lackpoit not won (good of £5.324,43 carried forward to Chepsiow today). Photopoit: £307.40, Quantipoit: £19.60. Photo 6: £196.84, Place 5: £48.86. CATTERICK | |
|---|--|--|--|
| ¥ THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + | 9.4 fev Tennen (fell), 2, 5, 9 Gmoot, yas- on), Tober £6.90; £2.00, £2.30, £4.40, DF; £28.20, CSP; £39.74, You £80.80, NR: Wind- word Ariom. 100. 1, Triples Programs 25 of Lensing 13-8 fac; 2, Martumouth 4-1; 3, Megle Com- bineditor 7-2, 10 ma. 2, 6, 10 lot, Wrug-gran, 100.54, 20, 51.50, £1.60, 07; £5.60 | 1.40: 1. FUSSIAN RASCAL (P. Nacri) 5-1: 2. J.J. Baboo 5-2 far, 3. Arabian Heights 20-1. 19 ran. 8. 1½. (f. Eastarby), Tobe: 55.60: 57.50, £1.10, £11.10, DF; £7.90, USP: £15.37, This zur Jo. 35. Part Volci- sia, Respecting. 2.10: 1. TRES SOLE (A.S. Smith) 6-4 far; | |
| LIVE COMMENTARIES RESOLVED | CSF: £8.49, Trio: £16.10. NR: Red River. | 2. The Bird O'Donnell 13-8; 2. Millies im- age 20-1. 5 rac. 1/h, dist. (P Chees- | |

3.30: 1. GRVENTIME: (). Hervey 7-2 fm; 2. A N C Express 4-1; 3. Plastic Spaceage 8-1; 10 ran. 2, 4. (A Turnel, Wentago). Totac £4.60; £1.20; £1.90; 3.60. DF; £7.80. CSF; £17.50. Tricast £97.38. Tro: £23.90. 4.00: 1. 60µTY'S DARLING (P Hote) 20-1; 2. Lady High Sherlif 5-1; 3. Stoel Gern 4-1 fev. 15 ran. 1½, 13. () O'Bnen, Pittown, Co (Germy). Totac £28.20; £6.50, £1.40, £1.60. DF; £54.60. CSF; £113.75. Tricast £481.83. Tro: £318.10. £481,83, Too: £318.10. 4.30: 1. TICKERTY'S CEFT (M ADMINIST) 9-2:

RACING RESULTS

3.40: 1. WEAVER GEORGE DA MOJORNA 11-8 tav; 2. Tim Soldier 9-4; 3. Twin Falls 9am. 4.10: 1. TELTY (T Eley) 6-4 fay; 2. Soloman Springs 9-1; 3. High Penhoure 7-1. 5 ran. 8, 11. (A Streeter). Totas 51.90; £1.50, £1.50. DF: £23.00. CSF. £10.90.

SUUTHWELL 1.50: 1. HEAD CARDENER (T G McLough-in) 7-2: 2. Love Mo Do 8-11 fax; 3. State of Gold 20-1. 9 ran. ½, 18. (N Ultimoden); Total E7-70; 12-30, E1.10, 12-40, DP, £2-50, CPD, £2-70, 12-20, 20-20. CSF: £5.73. Tric: £10.00.

sected rider), & 1, (M Pice), Total ER-40: £31.58. Tocast: £107.76. Too: £41.70. 2.45: 1. D'NAAN (C Maude) 100-30; 2. Ainstea 4 1; 3. Ultimate Smoothie 3-1 tav. 8 mg. 2; 8; (M Ppe). Tota: £3.00; £1.60. £1.10, £1.70, DF. £9.20, CSF; £16.33, Tri-cast; £40.05. 3.16: 1.AZAVISTIC (T DESCUTOS) 2-1 tag 2.

Over The Water 33-1; 3. Charlie Parrot 3-1. 10 rag, 9, 3½, (C Poptern). Tota: £2,60; £1,10. £3,70, £1,80. Df: £37,70. CSF: £63,93. Tree 13.70, ELBO, DF, 237.70, CSF; 263.93, Inc. £109.30 (part wor). NP: Uprang. 2.46: 1. SAMNTOWN BEL! (D Wash) 3-1 fav; 2. Messamo 7-2; 3. Childing Chocolinte 6-1. 7 ran. 11, 6. (M Pipe). Tota: £3.80; £2.90; £2.60, DF: £10.30, CSF; £13.49.

4.15: 1, MAID SQUAL (6 Supple 2-1; 2. Mr Strong Gelie evers for; 3. Tigar Glow 20-1; 7 mm. 1, 19, 0M Ppp), Totar 6.3,00; 52.50. £1.10, pf: 52.00, CSF: 54.53. 4.45: 1, MILLOROFT RIVIERA (P Henley) **1; 2. Desphorg 13-2; 3. Mess Foxy & 1.
10 han. 10-11 tay Mrs Em (ref). 2, pist. (R
Alne). Tota: £9.70; £1.70, £1.20, £1.70. OF: £13.70. CSF: £45.93. Tric: £17.40. Placapet: £43.00, Quadpot: £2,20. Place 6: £30.11. Place 5: £5.73.



And the second s

Scotland have dipped into Gloucester's reserves for the open-side flanker they hope will help to stifle the game of England's recalled No 10 in the Calcutta Cup at Twickenham today. Chris Hewett spoke to them

wales of wrse of Return of the natives with attitude

Smith to deliver message

Roh Wainwright regards him as his closest ally, the man he automatically turns to when "we're in the last 20 minutes of a game, something needs to be said and I'm too knackered to open my mouth". Much to the relief of Scotland's captain, it is at moments of crisis that Ian Smith stands up to

Which is pretty ironic when you come to consider it. Smith's rich experience of life among the mud and hullets of top-flight Courage League rugby may he good enough for an international side who reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup less than two years ago and very nearly marched off with a Grand Slam last season, but is transparently not good enough for Gloucester. Unsung, unsophisticated and downright unsuccessful as they may be, the Cherry and Whites would sooner pick dead leaves from the gutter than pick their former skipper.

"Don't ask me what's going on, ask Richard Hill," Smith said this week. In fact, he will be doing the asking himself as soon as he gets back to Kingsholm on Mooday and Hill, the former Bath and England scrum-half who is in charge of playing matters in what remains one of the most passionate rugby hotbeds in Britain, can expect a few cards to appear on the table.

It has been an awkward, not to say dispir-

iting, season for Smith, a 3I-year-old civil engineer who earned his sporting spurs in the ruggedly hard school of the Gloucester Combination: Longlevens, dedicated advocates of the "ask no questions, take no prisoners" philosophy, were his junior club and there are plenty of regulars in the Longford Road clubbouse who have taken almost personal offeoce at the marginalisation of their illustrious old boy.

I played four or five league and Anglo-Welsh Cup matches back in September and then... well, nothing, I just couldn't get a run in the first team. When I did get another chance in the Pilkington Cup tie with Leeds in December, I dislocated my thumb just at the roll where it connects with the just at the point where it connects with the wrist. I stayed on, of course – I'd waited long enough to play so I wanted to make the most of it – but it kept me out of Scotland's game lan Smith: "I feel very focused for this one" with Wales a fortnight back."

A good one to miss, as it turned out. Smith, who qualifies for the Scots through parents, was restored to the side at the first available opportunity as the national selectors, predictably, reacted hercely to a Murrayfield performance of depressing ineptitude, riddled as it was with more unforced errors than a Sunday

morning mixed doubles in the local park. "We've got to perform at Twickenham, because two straight defeats in a four-match championship means curtains. We know what people say about our forward strength - that England will take us to the cleaners again this year, just as they did on Grand Slam day last March - but as far as I'm concerned we've all been picked for this game on the basis that we are good enough to play at international level. Our job is to go out there and show some confidence in our



noping that all the rest I ve had this v frustrating though it may have been, will stand me in good stead. It's a double-edged sword, not playing for weeks on end: on the one hand you're hitterly upset at not being out there; on the other your appetite is getting sharper with each passing week.
"I feel very focused for this one. I don't

go in for all that anti-English stuff - Culloden and the blue shirt and the rest of it. What I do rate is some cool, calm analysis of what has to be done as a prelude to going out and doing it. I haven't had much good fortune at Twickenham - two appearances, two stuffings - but I've never played there for Scotland and it would be nice to turn things around today."

Capped 20 times since his debut against England at Murrayfield in 1992, Smith's

"It will be a hard game, of course - know-how should be invaluable against the they're all hard these days - but I'm just old country's debutant open-side, the "oth-Richard Hill. "Yes, experience couots for a lot at the top end of the game, but Richard and I have faced each other on a couple of occasions now and I think we know what to expect from each other.

> "He's come on a fair hit since I first ran up against him. He's a big lad and be used to be something of a bosher, but he started to bring a lot more variety to his game over the last year or so. It should be interesting.

Hill speaks of Smith with equal respect. "I expect Ian to be very hard work, especially when the ball is oo the ground. I'd rather not be drawn into that sort of battle but I'm aware that the time will come when I'll have to compete with him at the centre of the battle. He's got a lot of hig games behind him and I couldn't really ask

Grayson given a new script



Imagine, if you can, an A30 road protester riding rough-shod over the English countryside at the wheel of a JCB. Now try to picture Paul

Grayson, the England outside-half, putting Scotland to the sword with a sidestepping, try-scoring display of mesmer-ising attacking bravado. According to Gray-son's detractors—and there are many—the former scenario is by far the more likely.

Grayson has more critics than O.J. Simpson has defence lawyers. Heaven knows, he is oot the first kicking outside-half to wear his country's No 10 shirt - two years ago, Rob Andrew right-booted the Scots into an early grave without a murmur of dissent from the Twickenham faithful but for whatever reason, the mood in the stands has changed from a particularly smug glorification of the pragmatic to a vocifer-ous impatience with no-frills, no-thrills rug-

by - even if it turns out to be winning rugby. The received wisdom is that Grayson is a one-dimensional points machine whose ability to kick like a donkey is compromised hy the suspicion that he would struggle to run past the same animal on Weymouth sands. Today, on his return to the England side, he comes eyeball to eyeball with his Northamptoo club colleague Gregor Townsend, who just happens to be the most inventive and least orthodox stand-off in Britain. Sod's law strikes again.

"I play alongside Gregor week in, week out and I can honestly say that I haven't a due what he will do out there this afternoon," the 25-year-old Lancastrian admits with a wry smile. Which, of course, adds fuel to the fires of scepticism. You wouldn't catch Gregor saying that about Paul, would you?

But Grayson, who kicked his country to the 1996 Five Nations title before heing dumped in favour of Mike Cart for the early matches of the current campaign, is quite obviously a more rounded playmaker than he is given credit for. Ian McGreechan, the Northampton coach, believes last season was a prime example of England restricting the player rather than the other way round.
"I'd like to think England will give Paul

the platform to express his complete range of skills," said the Scot, showing coma Calcutta Cup match that could easily consign his own countrymen to Five Nations without a clear idea of what you're trying Not that he made such a bad fist of things oblivion. And as if on cue, Grayson believes to do so would be to leave your first time out. First time out. First time out. First time out. n his favour.

"Tve got a new brief," he said yesterday. "After last year, I suppose people were justified in suggesting I had only one string to my bow. But you have to take account of the circumstances: we went to Murrayfield to play a Scottish side who were 80 minutes from a Grand Slam, our own season was on the line, Dean Richards was back and we decided to play a constricted but very effective game.

"I'd like to think we're in a position to introduce more variety this time. That is not to say I intend to throw every ball out wide and spend all afternoon running after Jon Sleightholme and Tony Underwood, but I do intend to jumble things up within the broad framework of our agreed approach. And yes, you do need a framework. There is absolutely no point in going on to the pitch



self open to confusioo and any harun scarum stuff would benefit the Scots, not us." A hard nut. Grayson. A former semi-professional footballer with Accrington Stanley, there is more than a touch of the truly, madly, deeply about his competitive spirit. He possesses the priceless capacity to slam the mental door on life's little irrelevances - a

hostile home crowd, for instance - and concentrate an impressing the right people. "I want to do the right things in the eyes of the selectors," he says with quiet self-assurance. "I'm not too worried about anyone else.

"As for handling the pressure, I think this championship will be very different from last season's. It was so new to me a year ago, all the hype and media attention. This time, I know what's what. It should be far easier to focus entirely on what I'm here to do."

less against the French in Paris, he made every hit as important a contribution as Richards to the Murrayfield victory without receiving a zillionth of the praise, and be rounded things off with 23 points against the Irish as his team sneaked the champiooship spoils on the back of a French defeat in Cardiff.

Will a repeat performance be good enough this time? Unfair as it may sound, probably not; England cannot hope to score three tries in four matches and escape with their collective reputation or their current hierarchy intact. But if Paul Grayson is still in place when the Red Rose takes on the Red Dragon in Cardiff next month, half a dozen penalties and a snappy drop goal will do very nicely, thank you. There is not an Englishman alive who would quibble with that.

STATE OF THE PARTY OF

Greenwood shines as leader

Will Greenwood's one-man cumpaign to make life almost unbearably awkward for Jack Rowell and the rest of the England hierarchy reached new heights vesterday as the national second-string put eight tries past Scotland A, who had themselves done something very similar to Wales only a formight

tained the A team for the first time at the Stoop Memorial Ground and, judging by the absolute pearl of a performance he produced yesterday. he was born to lead. The next time he plays a representative game in West London, it may well be across the road at Twickenham.

Before that can happen, moved up another notch and

rewrite the laws of arithmetic by fitting four centres into two positions, or instigate a cull of his sacred-cow contingent, Jeremy Guscott, on the hench behind

Phil de Glanville and Will Carling in today's Calcutta Cup match, is officially next in line, but Greenwood, seven years younger and as hungry as they come, is galloping up on the

He started with a rush, blowing away an Eric Peters tackle 25 metres out and striding imperiously to the line without another hand being laid upon him. For the rest of the half he contented himself with some slide-rule passing, repeatedly ushering the fast and elusive Nick Beal into dangerous holes hehind the first wave of Scottish

With the game virtually won at the break - England went in 18-5 ahead - Greenwood

made the Scots pay for some less than vintage tackling. He did not add to his personal tally, but his beautifully weighted pass in the build-up to Beal's try on 41 minutes and his imaginative backhand flip to send Tony Diprose over at the posts 17 minutes later were reward enough.

Beal turned in a display at full-back that suggested he might push Tim Stimpsou all the way for a regular England place while Kyran Brackeo looked back to his best at scrum-half and very nearly made a mockery of Rowell's decision to drop him from the bench for today's main event.

The Scots, outgunned up front, still managed three tries, two of them falling to the fullback, Derrick Lee. But their day ended even more badly than the score suggested with Andy Nicol being taken off oo a stretcher with a serious elbow

At Tries Life 2, Peters; Convention Weigh.
ENGLAND At IN Boal (Northampton); A Adebayo (Bath), W Greenwood (Lakester.
capt), N Greenwick (Wespe), Il Luger (Narcept), N Greenwick (Wespe), Il Luger (Narcept); A King (Wespe), K Bracken (Sarcept); A Winge (Bath), R Cockerff (Lakester),
J Mafett (Bath), G Archer (Nessende), Il
Stres (Gloucestar), C Sheesby (Waspe), A
Diprose (Sarscons), N Back (Lekester), Replacement; J Mellinder (Seie) for Luge, 49.
SCOTLAND At Il Lee (Wetsonans); C Glesgow (Heriot's FP), P Rouse (Ounder), D
Hodge (Wespe), J Craig (West of Scotland); 2 Weish (Heriot), A Nicot (Beth); J
Manson (Sching Courny), G Bolloch (West
of Scotland), P Wright (Melrose), S Cempbell (Melrose), S Griznes (Westonans), E
Peters (Gath), C Hogg (Melrose), acc), M west (Michoes), S Grizmes (Michors, Peters (Bath), C Hogg (Melrose, or Wallace (GHV). Replacements: S Heato's) for Crag. 50; I Paintey (Vel Nicol, 60.

Faced with the threat of the proposed World Rugby Championship, the South African Rugby Foothall Union spent 57m rand (almost £8m) last year

to keep its top plnyers.

A financial statement issued yesterday showed Sarfu gave 33m rand to provincial unions and speot another 24m to put national players under contract.

Brittle asked to accept deal

Rughy Football Union, has asked the isolated executive committee chairman, Cliff Brittie, in accept the peace deal agreed between Twickenham

and the senior clubs. Brittle signalled his dis-approval of the agreement immediately after the anoouncement on Thursday night that the RFU president, John Richardson, had finalised a deal with England's leading 24 clubs to end the long-running conflict.
"I am taking a few days to consider the implications," Brittle

said. He must now decide whether to activate his threat to call a special general meeting of the RFU, the third in 14 months. Hallett said: "I hope Cliff Brittle will reconsider his position as he has worked harder than anybody to drive a deal that keeps the governing body in the right place, and the clubs

together as well.
"There is the prospect of a

peace has broken out and this is something that the whole game can rejoice about. Cliff will be thinking about it but I hope he can get on with the

game:
"He fought very hard to tighten the screw a little bit tighter.
We felt the game could no longer take any difficulties and really had to move forward. I think Cliff is a man of integrity. He has seen something in this agreement that isn't perfect and he's a perfectionist."

The full committee of the RFU gave their backing to Richardson at the emergency meeting on Thursday and Charles Levison, a member of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs' negotiating team. mentioned that resignation may be an option for Brittle. "He speaks with a minority voice and whether he should resign is his decision." Levison said.

He will have enough support from far-flung parts of the country to prolong his campaign and will easily gather the nec-

from the possibility of it being

taken over by the millionaire

owners of England's top clubs.

essary 100 signatures from the 2,000 English clubs to call an SGM in Birmingham similar to the gathering that elected him in January last year. The England captain, Phil de

Glanville, yesterday welcomed the end of the battle to control rugby union, but asked: "Why did it take so long?".

De Glanville, leading England for the first time in the Five Nations, called for "full speed ahead." But he added: "We still have to look at the details of the deal because we have seen

On the field, Paul Sampson, normally a winger for Wasps, showed his club and the England selectors that he has a bright fuside-half as the England's Uoder-21 side beat Scotland 35-36

73

at The Stoop yesterday. Sampson, invited to train with the England squad last scason when still a schoolboy, ran the game along with Orrell's im-pressive full-back, Rob Hitch-

England scored six tries in a victory that was far closer than it should have been after Scotland came back strongly in the second half.

Sampson was at the centre of everything good about England, although they failed to capitalise on their forward domination in the first half by relying too heavily on him and Hitchmough for inspiration.

Wales Under-21 also began the weekend in winning fashion as they scored four tries in the last 14 minutes to secure a comprehensive 44-16 victory against their Irish counterparts at Bridgend.

Whichever team wins, the celebrations pallinight. Luckily so do vie

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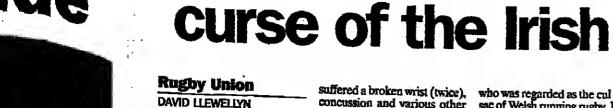
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STATE ...



The nation probably expects the Wales team to walk on water af-ter the miracle of Murrayfield a fortnight ago (back in the glo-rious 70s they would probably have attempted it too), but sensibly their coach, Kevin Bowring, has insisted that his charges' feet remain firmly on the ground as they try for the second leg of the Triple Crown.

reports from Cardiff

There have been oo promises of champagne rugby; no guarantees of victory; no dwelling on Ireland's record in Cardiff - they have not lost here since 1983. There is no hype. The Dragons are not breathing fire before the game, they are saving their energy for the match itself.

As well they might. The Irish can never be underestimated as their record shows. During that 14-year period the best Wales have managed at home is a draw, in 1991, when today's Ireland captain, Jim Staples, made his debut. It goes without saying that on that day Staples, having scored a try, then left the field injured, after crashing into a sprinkler on the periphery of the National Stadium's pitch.

Poor Staples has an unenvi-able record on the injury front:

suffered a broken wrist (twice), concussion and various other sac of Welsh running rugby. He bumps and bangs. But Wales wears the No 15 shirt for the holds fond memories for him and he acknowledges that the Arms Park has been good to Ireland in the past. "It's a tremendous ground," says Staples, 31, who wins his 24th cap today.

Wales out to end

Most internationals who have played here will tell you it's a very special ground with a great atmosphere and we have managed to put together some decent performances here, but

FIVE NATIONS' Championship

I think tomorrow might be dif-ferent because the Welsh have their tails up right now after the win in Scotland."

Although the Irish, like Wales, have been hit by late withdrawals one of the replacements, Dennis Hickie - a callow youth of 20 - who will be making his international debut, has caused a flutter of excitement. He is a student at St Mary's College and he is, by all accounts, quick. He was Irish schools sprint champion. The Ireland coach, Brian Ashton, says: "It's nice to know you have a bit of gas outside."
But Hickie, raw and inex-

perienced, will have to negotiate Wales' recently recruited be has just recovered from a full-back Neil Jenkins. Rebroken jaw and in the past has member him? The stand-off

St Mary's College

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GOLLAND

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WALES v IRELAND

17 P.Joh

at Cardiff Arms Park

12 M Field

D Crotty

fifth time today, his 48th cap, and Staples has no doubts of Jenkins's ability. "We will not be targeting Nell," the Harlequins full-back

said. "He is a footballer. I've played against him when he has been at stand-half and in the centre and he's done very well. I'm sure he will do well at fullback: he has all the skills and he is comfortable with the ball, he kicks off either foot, passes off either hand and his timing is

Jenkins, the Pontypridd cap-tain, can also kick goals. He lies fifth in the all-time world list of Test goal-kickers with 517 points, and needs just 14 more to overtake fourth-placed Hugo Porta, of Argentina, in a distinguished group headed by Australia's Michael Lynagh (911), Scotland's Gavin Hastings (667) and Grant Fox of New Zealand (645).

But his least known attribute is pace. Hickie could find Jenkins a real handful in attack or defence. "I'll be looking to come into the line when 1 can," promises Jenkins, who is no slouch in defence either.

"James Small tried to get around me in the South Africa game and be didn't manage it." he added. "It was the same with Joost van der Westhuizen, their scrum-half, and they are two of the fastest guys around. I'm not too worried. I'm a hit deceptive with my pace. I'm certainly not that slow, while perhaps not being electrically

And he feels that having layed 35 times at outside-half he has been well prepared for what to expect this afternoon. "I think having played outsidehalf has given me an insight into other positions and will help me to anticipate what they are likely to do," Jenkins said. All of Wales will he antici-

pating victory and an end to Ireand's run today. Whether Wales can pull it off is another matter - what is certain is that Jenkins will have played a key role if they do.



new professional era. The future, however, remains uncertain and the game faces important

es to administrators and fans, a chance to discuss the state of the game.

The seminar, organised by Rugby News magazine in association with the Independent and SBC Warburg, will be held at the QE2 Conference Centre, Westminster on Friday 28 February.

Entitled "Rugby's Future – a discussion on the state of the game", the seminar will be at-

egates. The seminar will start at 9.15 and conclude at approximately 5.30 or 6.00.

For further Information write to: Vicky Kaye, Rugby News, 7-9 Rathbone Street, London, W1P 1AF or telephone 0171 636 6651.

YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE DEBATE ON RUGBY'S FUTURE

Rugby union is emerging from months of turmoil as it starts to cope with the challenges of the

tended by leading figures throughout the sport.

Speakers will include Nick Farr-Jones, the former Australia captain; Tony Hallett, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union; Cliff Morgan, the legendary former British Lion and Wales international; and Dan Rooney, president of the Pittsburgh Steelers American foot-

A registration fee of £29.50 includes mid-morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea for del

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

We tried everything. But in the end we just weren't good enough. David Lloyd, England's coach, at the side's failure to present New liend's lest pair putting on 106 to save the first Test in Auckland. They bowled a bit short at me. Danny Morrison, the worst batsmen in Test cricket, relie England's

tickers where they went wrong The biggest problem for England is that the rhetoric off the field has not been matched on it. if Jack Rowell had shut up and stopped talking all his mumbojumbo about interactive and expansive rugby, it would not have seered the weight of expectation. Geoff Cooles, the former Eng-

All the teams I have coached have won something in every season since 1984 except one. Some mumbo jumbo Rowell, Cooke's successor.

it's fear of being bester up by the boss that keeps us going fem Work scorer of Nothingham Forest's FA Cup vinner against Newcastle, on Forest's caretak er manager, Swart Psycho

They've always said I've a great first touch Andy Mulicity of Stockbort. after scoring the winner in his side's Coca-Cola Cup victory over Southernpton: 15 seconds after COMING ON AS SUDSTIBLIES

> TODAY'S NUMBER

> > 987

The number of sports sponsorship packages reported in Britain in 1996, including 76 involving youth and schools projects. The size of the market grew from £285m in 1995 to £340,2m last year.

Football

3.0 universitated matches not on pools coupons FA CARLISEERE WASS Fifth rounds Beretzed v Herme Boy, Collier Now & Romrind v Bedney to Themests, Custem v Northwood: Guisborough v Wisboek Moneloy Basing Northworth v Bedney to Matches House of Salaring Northworth v Bedney v Wisboek Moneloy Basing Northworth v House v Hailbur, Dover v Kettaring, Hayes v Macciscled: Hedressord v Votoris, Routhworth Vistoria v Aftercham, Rushden & Damords v Mones Hailbur, Dover v Kettaring, Hayes v Macciscled: Hedressord v Wotoris, Northworth Vistoria v Aftercham, Rushden & Damords v Monescambe; Skrught v Gastenhoed; Salaythodge Cottle v Famoorough; Wesfing v Stoversigs. 125 LEAMLE Presider Divisions Aylesbury v Krystoniam Bestoy's Stortfood v Dulakch Hamiliat; Borcham Wood v Bornoley; Erichel v St. Albaric City; Harrow Borough v Grays; Heybridge Swifts v Herston; Purfices v Degenism & Herstoniam Salaria v Grodom Cristoliam; Salaria v Grodom Cristoliam v Malacheriam v Benthamatisct; Tooling & Micham v Manthing Udmigs v Abingdon Town; Whysbeade v Wisham & Herstann; Wokingkam v Malacheriam, Second Invisione Chailors St. Peter v Bracknet; Conting a Micropolitan Politic Gross of Busings v Chings v Micropolitan Politics Grossier v Chestiam; Egitam v Hungerfort; Laignen v Hossiam; Tabury v Winderfort; Martin Bernard Wisham Salaria v Grodom Cristonia Salaria v Washon Salaria v Washon Cristonia Salaria v Malacheria Conting to Micropolitan Politics Grayster v Chestiam; Egitam v Hungerfort; Laignen v Hossiam; Tabury v Winderfort; Martin Bernard V Gandra V Gastonia v Grodom Cristonia v Grodom

Police v Shifmal.

WineSTONE EAD YES/T LEAGUE: Beckenham v
Feversham (2.30): Centerbury v Turbridge
Weisr, Charbern v Raznejalas, Casy Wanderdera v
Woohabit 12.30); Crockerhill v Sheppey (2.50);
Deal v Farness; Griserwich Berough v Cortribent (2.30); Lordewood v Foliopische Intica (2.30); Tharmeumsed v State Green. [2,30]; Themounised v State Green.
UNLERT SUSSEX COUNTY LAGGE First DMsiess Annoted v Southwick; Eastbourne Town v
Tyree Bridges; Horstram, YACA v Hallehart;
Largey Sports v Heastocks; Portlekt v Mick Salvdean v Oele

Christie demurred over doing WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE WESPORT URRED COUNTES LENGUE Preuniter Diffetions Boston Town v Cogernors Mirritoes Blackstere v Protocy, Northernpon Sperner v Desbrought St Rectar v Newpon Pagnets Stamind v Hobbeacht, Strewerts & Libyds Codry v Eprotocy to the Wespon Pagnets Stamind v Hobbeacht, Strewerts Se Libyds Codry v Eprotocy Statistical v Bournet, Wooston v Food Sports. Desprise Statistical v Bournet, Wooston v Food Sports. Desprise Statistical v Bournet, Wooston v Food Sports. Protocy Statistical v Bournet, Wooston v Food Sports. Desprise Statistical v Bournet, Woosto resour, Sector Councy Foundative Programs BORDHERM COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Amthorpe Walter v Amold; Ashfeld V Dorable Bloom v Heisen, Brigg v Masky; Huck-real Town v Pictowing Liverscope v Graeft Town; Cleast Abiton v Glasstburghton; Selby v Porze-fract; Shoffaid v Hetfield Mark.

Ossest Abbon v Glassthoughbor, Selby v Portiefract, Sheffield v Hatsidel Masn.
MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEARLIE Frast Division: Burscough v Chaddentort, Danwer v Athetion Collismes, Eustwood Hardey v Bootle, Hober
Old Burscough v Chaddentort, Danwer v Athetion Glasses, Eustwood Hardey v Bootle, Hober
Resentate v Gossop; Saliond v Vauchall GAITraillord v Gotheroe.

JEMSON WESSEK LEMADIE Andover v Borneron
Heath Harbourts; Dourston v Romeron
Heath Harbourts; Dourston v Romero, Edit Covets
Vics v Christonuch; Gosport Borquen v Covess
Sports; Petersheld v Wintborne; Petramouth RN
VBAT Sports; Ryde Sports v Easteiger; Theistram v Lymergion; Whitchurch v Bournemouth RC.
JEMSON BASTERN LEMALIE, Premise Divisions;
Classon v Suction; Wandhurch v Bournemouth RC.
Hatsiased v Schwirt, Harvech & Partesson v Woodbridge, March v Feltschoter, Newtowniet v Sudbrigg Sanch v SudBrigg Sanch v South Smids:
Oorself v Durson RE, Martin v Mortpett RTM
Newcastlev Stockor; Seefrem v Goot; Tou Law
Verbengers, West Auchten' v Birgform Syntronia.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHEAND LEASURE. V Esengtor, West Auchtend v Bitingham Synthonis-pesses & JOURSHAL HURLAND LENGSHE-Budse Thistle v Work Arademy, Clednacuddin v Pessheat; Deveronale v Eigen City: Forms Me-chanics v Narm Courty, Fort William v Prasen-burgh; Huntly v Cove Rangten; Kach v Brora Rangten; Rothes v Losdermouth. Sattley Off Reish LEAGUE Pressiver Divisions Arts v Linfald; Chitomille v Crusaders; Glenseon v Collesians; Glentoran v Portacioum. Plest Divi-sions Baltyclere v Distillen; Baltymona v Cambic Lame v Bengor; Ornagh v Newsy. LEAGUE OF WALLESS Bandsr Clav AbenchaAft

Lamer v Bengor, Ornegh v Newy.
LENGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Abarystwyff:
Benry v Rhyl (2.30); Celeraws v Ownbrish: Carmarthen v Casarishic, Conwy v Llensentiffind
(2.30); Fart v Ebbe v Vet; Holyweit v Ton Pertre: Ires Cable-Tel Gardiff v Cernaes Bay; Portrmatiog v Newtown.
HURP LASEIR NATIONAL LEASUE OF IRELAND
Pressier Divisions Finn Harps v Bray Wanderers (7.30); Shebourne v Home Farm Everon
(7.0); Sigo Rovers v Bohamans (7.30).

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP England v Scotland (3.0)

CLUB MATCHES: Blackhesth v Carriorkige Uni-westly (12.0); London Scottish v Watermens (3.0); Waterfoo v Sale (12.0); Welletield v Carell (12.0); West Hertlepool v Rothscham (3.0).

Basketball BUDNESSER LEAGUE Derfy Storm v Bernag-ham Bullers (7.30); Manchester Gerals v Labou-ter Redes (7.30); Manchester Eagles v Leopards (7.30); Thermas Valley Tigers v Hernel and Was-tert Royals (8.0).

Fifth, Mean's First Divisions: Bury & Botton v So-lent (7:30): Notanghem v Lverpool (8.0); Pry-mouth v Briston (7:30); Stackson v Mai Sussex, (7:30); Wate v Covernoy (8.0); Wate Sussex, (7:30); Wate v Covernoy (8.0); Wate Sussex, Octob (8.0); Water of Covernoy (8.0); Cystaf Pelsoc v Harlenden (8.0); Igwalch v Spothome (7:30); London v Northempton (8.0); Florandes v Shelhed (6.30); Theres Valley v Brminghem (5.45).

SUPERLEAGUE Cordif Devils v Jyr Scottish Ea gist (7.0); Nottingham Parthers v Besingstok Beon (7.0); Sheffield Septiers v Bracknell Boes (7.0). ice hockey

(7.01.) PREMITER LEAGUE: Ouridiard Flames v Methely Beans (5.0); Stough Jets v Telfard Tigers (9.30); Solihuli Bisco v Pelarbarough Pastes (5.30); Swan-don loeLords v Kingston Hawks (5.15).

BADMENTON: English Champic Sports Village).

Other sports

TOMORROW Football LEAGUE OF WALES: Conneit's Quey Nomids v Briton Ferry (3.0). HARP LASER MATERIAL LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Distance: Con. City v Dundels (2.0); UCD v Sharmout Rosers (3.15).

Rugby Union COURAGE CLUBS' CHARPIONSHIP National League Two: Notingfrom v Moseley (2,01. Na-tional League Four South: Herity v Tabaso (2,30); Newbury v High Wycombe (3,0).

Rugby League FRIENDLY MATCHES: Bradford v Heightey (3.0); Coeffelord v Featherstone (3.30); Lan-coeffic Lyra v Wigan (3.0).

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE Sheffeld Shorks v New-castle Eagles (7.0); Birmingham Bullets v Che-nal Palace (7.0); London Leopards v Chester Jets (7.0); London Towers v Wortlang Bears (5.0).

MOCROSY
MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division:
Barford Tigers v Guiteford (1.0); Cartierbury v
Reading (1.0); Nevent v Cannock (2.15); Hourstow V oil Loughtonnam (2.0); Surbigon v Techniqus v East
Grussed (2.0); Surbigon v Techniqus (2.0); Blueharts v Edigmaston (2.0); Bournville v Donasstor (2.30); Sronisty v Crostyn (1.0); Brooklands v
City of Pottmouth (2.0); Index of yrinkhars v
Goucester Cay (2.30); Isoa v Harriston Magpoet (11.45); Leese v Wermigen (1.30); Oxford Hawks v Trejars (12.30); Oxford University v
Stourpon (2.0); Shelfield v St. Albans (2.0).

ice bockey SUPERLEASUE Braderell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0); Manchester Storm v Cardiff De-its (6.0); Newcisie Cobres v Nothingham Pen-thers (6.30).

PREMIER LEASUE: Medway Beest v Custom Planes (5.15); Prenthorough Prates v Telford Tages: (5.30); Solfull Bees v Kingston Howles (7.0); Swindon Kotlants v Skough Joss (6.0).

Mike Rowbottom on familiar noises coming from the Ministry of Sound

Christie enters space race

Linford Christie struts his funky new stuff in London yesterday

Linford Christie appeared in London as a spaceman yester-day. But what he regards as his

final frontier remains a mystery.

pion - making a hizarre pro-

motional appearance for his

shoe company Puma at the fu-turistic Ministry of Sound club

- maintains that he is first and

foremost a coach these days. Af-

ter all, he did announce his re-

tirement from international

competition last season. Racing,

though, is still clearly an option,

as he demonstrated with his im-

promptu outing in Norway last

And while he denies that he

will do any more "majors", you

sense that he still plans to make

a flourish on the track some

from inside a tinfoil Babygro

with hood, his expression be-

coming momentarily wolfish

rather than sheepish. "I'm going to run for my club a lnt. I'm

As he stood uneasily be-

neath a ceiling full of buge pro-phylactics - which might either

have been representations of

stalactites or reminders for safe

sex - fun seemed very far away.

So, too, according to him, did this summer's World Champi-

onships. "They are in August. I don't even think that far."

Parallels with last year when

"You never know," he said.

time this sesson.

having fun now."

The former Olympic cham-

the Olympics until the eleventh hour are not hard to observe. But whatever involvement the 36-year-old has as a competitur this season, he has already shifted the balance of his attention towards coaching in a way he has never done before. While the administration of

British athletics is currently convulsing itself, athletes themseives are demonstrating a spirit of co-operation never previously seen. Christie has become established this winter as role model and overseer to a group of top-class sprinters including experienced men such as John Regis and Darren Braithwaite, and highly promising newcomers like Jamie Baulch, Darren

Campbell and Ian Mackie. The man whom the 23-yearold Baulch described as "big daddy coach" last weekend has taken his work extremely seriously, setting training schedules for all and passing nn his experience to the younger members.

"Before this year it all seemed to be about cliques," he said. "You felt that training was all a big secret. Now, for the first time, all the top sprinters in Britain are learning from each other."

Yet Christie, who leads by example during his sessions, is in excellent shape himself. The suggestion that those he is training need to be wary of being beaten by him sometime this eason raises a chuckle. "The law of the jungle is eat

or be eaten," he says. "But I hold nothing back. If I was really nut there this season to compete with them, I wouldn't tell them a lot of the things I do." Christie, who leaves on Mon-

day for a month's training in Australia accompanied by Regis and Campbell, is careful not to pressurise any young sprinter by singling him out for praise. "But if this group continue to work as hard as they are now, the sky is the limit," he said, "lo the end, it will be down to the guy who works the hardest and wants it the most." Christie would not be drawn

on who should succeed the outgoing BAF executive chairman. Peter Radford, although he said that the formation of the British Athletes' Association of which he is a founder direclor - was a "move in the right direction". As far as his own direction is

concerned, he sees himself coaching only through to the year 2000. Of course, Christie turns 40 in that year which would make him eligible for the World Veteran Championships. Don't rule it out.

Graveney to run against Gooch for the top job

Cricket

David Graveney was given the all-clear yesterday to light Graham Gooch for the most influ-

ential jnh in English cricket. The 43-year-old Gravency is now a candidate for the vacant chairman of selectors post following discussions between the Professional Cricketers' Association and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Graveney, the former Gloucestershire and Durham captain and now general secre-tary of the PCA, has twice been blocked because his membership believed it would have presented a conflict of interests. But following lengthy negotiations between the association and the ECB, the parties have agreed to modify the role of chairman to exclude him from disciplining any of his membership should he be chosen for the job. The reservations expressed by

the association in November 1996 have now been adequately resolved," Matthew Fleming, the chairman of the PCA, said. Gooch. Graveney's fellow

elector, told England in Norember that he would be interested in the vacant post and would retire from playing for Essex if required.

Gravency was first asked to stand by several counties last March against Raymond Illingworth, but was forced to withdraw following opposition from his membership. He again asked the association if he could stand after Illingworth's retirement. But following a poll of members, it was left he would be unable to represent the association effectively and become chairman.

"I agreed with the reservations expressed in November and if these have been removed it will obviously be a great ho-nour to be involved." Graveney said. "I would stress I have only been put forward as a candidate and a final decision will not be made until mid-March." The ECB spokesman, Richard Little, said; "England

want the selectors purely to se-lect sides and not have any other responsibilities. If the chairman has the responsibility to discipline it's an added workload for him as he must be at all Test matches all the way through in case something happens. They will give the discipli-

nary role to someone else. That was the stumbling block as far as David was concerned and once they decided on that change they were happy for David to stand.

No inquiry into 'insurance betting'

Snooker

NICK HARRIS

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, the game's ruling body, reiterated yesterday that it would not launch an inquiry into players who may bet on opponents as in-surance against losing.

Their stance follows allegations by lan Doyle, the manager of the world No 1 Stephen Hendry, that a former chairman of the WPBSA, John Spencer, had approached players and suggested that it made good business sense to wager on opponents. Spencer yesterday denied

there was any truth in the allegations. But he said he saw nothing wrong with such practices. "If it's not illegal, then 1 don't see anything wrong with it. But if they [players] make a profit by losing deliberately. then that is, in my eyes, illegal." Under WPBSA rules, betting on the outcome of matches is al-

lowed. A spokesman confirmed that the WPBSA had received complaints about Spencer, but because no illegal activity was alleged, there had been no inquiry and the matterwas closed. However, the association stressed that it did not condone betting

by players on matches and the situsilan was under review.

Doyle, whose solicitor will raise the matter at the annual meeting of the WPBSA in March, said Spencer had ap-proached him at last year's Benson and Hedges Masters. "John suggested that as the differential between semi-final money and final money was substantial, it would be sensible to place a bet on Stephen Hendry's opponent, who was

Alan MeManus," he said. John Higgins, who manages his son and the world No 2 John Higgins, said he had been given the same advice by Spencer during another tournament "He wasn't asking John to sell

the game by any means," he said. "But he says it was in the interest of players to put some money on them [their opponents in case they lost," he said. Dovle has made his claims

public because the WPBSA refuse to change the rules to outlaw such practices, an amendment he believes is necessary for the game's integrity. Barry Hearn, whose Match-

room stable includes Steve Davis and Jimmy White, agrees. "Personally I think no snooker player should but on matches. just like jockeys can't bet on their races. he said.

A Halada work apar

For a bet, Ladbrokes are favourite.

It's not **Britain make strong** start in World Nines The side that beat them in the

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Great Britain ended the first day of the World Nines tournament in Townsville, Queensland, in a strong position after winning their first two group matches by convincing margins.

Tries from lestyn Harris, Barrie-Jon Mather, John Bentley and Stuart Spruce helped them to beat Tonga 20-0 in their npening game, and two tries from Denis Betts contributed the 28-10 defeat of South Africa

later last night. Last year's winners, New Zealand, who are Britain's opponents in the last of their pool matches today, were rather less impressive, beating Tonga 14-4 and France only 12-10. Tony Tatupu, registered by

Warrington for the coming season, scored a try for New Zealand against France after being cleared to play by the international board. His former club, the Auckland Warriors, are claiming that he is still contractually bound to them.

Britain also face France and Japan today and need to win only two of their three matches to be sure of a place in the

stage this time, having lost to both the Cook Islands and Fiji The tournament favourites and host side. Australia, won both their games, as did Western Samoa, making those two sides the likely qualifiers from that

Leeds are looking for a home-grown back-row forward to complete their squad after deciding to release the New Zealander Nathan Picchi. Picchi fits within Leeds' over-

seas quota, but is being unloaded because of problems in obtaining enough work permits. Signed last season, he suffered a serious shoulder injury in his first match against Sheffield Eagles and has recently returned in action in Leeds' pre-season friendlies.

Piechi is keen to stay in England and Leeds have said that they will charge no fee for

The French club. Villeneuve. have echoed a theme sounded this week by Celtic, by threatening to withdraw from their national competition and to apply to play in England.

Duff does it again

Hugh Duff, the champion back in 1988 and the beateo finalist 12 month ago, moved through to the World Indoor Championship final in Preston again yesterday when he recovered from dropping the opening set to beat the English qualifier Greg Harlow 5-7, 7-4, 7-4, 7-6.

but when trailing 3-1 in the second picked up a maximum four

to move ahead and a double two ends later gave him the set. Harlow opened with two singles and a double to lead 4-0 in the third, but Duff stormed back. Harlow then moved into a 6-5 lead in the fourth but Duff produced the great last bowl he needed to take the match.

the winning, it's the semi-finals last season, Papua taking part. New Guinea, are unlikely to be involved beyond the group If you're Scottish. (England's victory by 11-15 pts: 4/1.) ENGLAND V SCOTLAND HANDRIAP BETTING 10/11 ENGLAND 10/11 SCOTLAND(+13PTS) 28/1 THE TI-Forecast the some First Tryscorer land receiving a 13 point start. Winning Points Margin 13/2 England win by 1-5 points 8/1 T.Underwood 5/1 England wan by 6-10 points 18/1 P.De Glanville 4/1 England win by 11-15 points 12/1 W.Carling 11/2 England was by 16-20 points 14/1 A.Gomarsall 7/1 England win by 21-25 points 14/1 K Logan 8/1 Scotland win by 1-5 points 14/1 D.Stark 14/1 Scotland win by 6-10 points 18/1 B.Redpath 25/1 Scotland win by 11-15 points 20/1 G.Townsend WALES v IRELAND Carriell Array Paris, Flick off 3.100 per, Live on Bell Visites HANDICAP BETTING 10/11 WALES 10/11 IRELAND (+12PTS) 18/1 THE TIE Forecast the scare with instant receiving a 12 point start. First Tryscorer Winning Points Mergin 13/2 Wales win by 1-5 points D.James S.Gibbs 5/1 Wales win by 6-10 paints 4/1 Water son by 11-15 points D.Crotty 7/1 Ireland win by 1.5 points 10/1 fretand erm by 6-10 points ve matches, other tryscorers and margers on request Penalty bys do not count for last tryscorer

In 1988 football made £5m from television. Next season it will receive £243m from the same source. As the Premiership chairmen ponder the division of the spoils, Glenn Moore fears it will just be a case of the rich getting richer

Football's big question: how to spend the lolly

ey came in their hundreds, some wearing this season's shirt some linked to the club by memories alone, all stirred into action by Bournemouth's plight. With debts of £4.4m the club was teetering on the ed : of extinction.

So they gave, 50ps and fivers were stuffed into collecting jars, higger sums pledged on credit cards. By the end of an emotional night the receiver announced that the club was £50,000 richer. The interest could be paid for another

While that meeting was tak-ing place at the Bournemouth Winter Gardens a very different assembly was gathered at the Houses of Parliament. This time the crowd had come to hear one of the chairmen who are the game's modern-day harons pass judgement on foothall's new wealth.

"It's prune juice," he thun-dered. "Give it to the clubs and it passes straight through them in higher wages, higher transfers, agents' fees and so on. There is no real benefit in giving it to them. It should be used for the good of game."

ournemouth in receiver-Ship, Millwall in administration, Brighton heading for oblivion. Meanwhile, at the other end of the game's financial league table, the chairmen appear to be queueing up to cash in on the City's current love of Premiership football.

Sir John Hall, Peter Johnson, Martin Edwards and Alan Sugar are just a few of the chairmen who have seen their wealth (paper or actual) rise exponentially through their investment in football. Some will argue that they have rescued their clubs from financial crisis and their personal rewards are merely a reflection of the club's new wealth. This, in some cases, is true, But the new relationship between a club's economic fortunes, and that of the man who determines

its course, is a dangerous liaison. The threat is twofold. The obvious one is that perceived at Tottenham where football glory is alleged to have been sacrifleed for the benefit of the balance sheet. Less overt, but a whole, is the effect this link may have on the current division of television's spoils.

Thanks to television the game is enjoying the most bounteous period of its history. The escalation of relevision income is truly staggering. In the last decade it has risen from £5m to £243m a season, 48-fold. And that does

not include European football. The vast bulk of that goes to the Premiership. Leaving aside carnings from FA Cup and European games the Premiership

clubs will get £185,750,000 between them next season. Some of this (about £10m) will go to the Professional Footballers' Association to be used for various schemes which provide for the welfare of players young and old and the excellent Football in the Community programme. This will leave about £175m to

gate money.

make the decision. This unelected body of men is currently deciding what to do with the money. It is a heady responsibility. The 20 could simply divide it up, bringing them nearly £9m each club, or they could decide used for the greater good of the game. For those chairman whose clubs are floated on the stock market, and those who are thinking of following them, the choice

knowledge that every penny that goes into the club means an increase in their personal fortune. Rick Parry, the retiring chief executive of the Premiership, has often said that the chairmen are more altruistic than popular legend would have it. So far there

be divided by the clubs, or rather.

by their chairmen for they will

is inevitably clouded by the

has been little evidence to sup-

port that view. Not that it is just a question of greed. One chairman, whose motives are not in question. declined to be quoted but said his team needed as much as possible to make up for a relatively small income from commercial activities, sponsors, and

Few others of the 20 chairmen replied to the Independent's enquiry on this subject last week. One who spoke elsewhere was Sugar. He was the "baron" addressing a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary e on Footh He also said: "I am very keen for some of this money, 20 to 25 per cent. to be given to another body, such as the Football Trust, to be used for the good of the game such as a youth programme."

It seems the chairmen, who are meeting later this month, are likely to give some money to a youth system. Those cluhs which did reply, such as West Ham, indicated as much. It may take the form advocat-

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Television payments 1995-1996

BSkyB BBC Merit Award Facility fee Equal Share

| | Arsenal | 5 | , 9 | 786,640 | 456,070 | 878,725 | 2,121,43 |
|---|---------------|-----|-----|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| • | Aston Villa | 6 | 9 | 835,805 | 510,060 | 878,725 | 2,224,59 |
| | 8lackbum | 5 | 7 | 688,310 | 440,560 | 878,725 | 2,007,59 |
| | Botton | 3 | 3 | 49,165 | 255,030 | 878,725 | 1,182,92 |
| | Chelsea | 4 | 7 | 491,650 | 363,305 | 878,T25 | 1,733,68 |
| | Coventry | 4 | 6 | 245,825 | 355,550 | 878,725 | 1,480,10 |
| | Everton | 8 | 5 | 737,475 | 502,305 | 878,725 | 2,118,50 |
| | Leeds | 5 | 7 | 393,320 | 440,560 | 878,725 | 1,712,60 |
| | Liverpool | 8 | 13 | 884,970 | 718,855 | 878,725 | 2,482,55 |
| | Man City | 3 | .8 | 147,495 | 293,805 | 878,725 | 1,320,02 |
| | Man Utd | 1:3 | 16 | 983,300 | 1,128,395 | 878,725 | 2,990,420 |
| | Middlesbrough | 6 | 6 | 442,485 | 510,060 | 878,725 | 1,331,27 |
| | Newcastle | 15 | 17. | 934,135 | 1,290,660 | 878,725 | 3,103,52 |
| | Notum Forest | 7 | 8 | 589,980 | 587,315 | 878,725 | 2,056.02 |
| | QPR | 4 | 7 | 98,330 | 363,305 | 378,725 | 1,340.36 |
| | 5heff Wed | 4 | 3 | 294,990 | 332,285 | 878,725 | 1.506,00 |
| | Southampton | 4 | 6 | 196,660 | 355.550 | 878,725 | 1.430,93 |
| | Tottenham | 8 | 5 | 639,145 | 656,815 | 878,725 | 2,174,68 |
| | West Ham | 7 | 3 | 540,815 | 564,050 | 378,725 | 1,983,59 |
| , | Wimbledon | 3 | 2 | 344,155 | 247,275 | 878,725 | 1,470,15 |
| 1 | TOTAL | | | 10,324,650 | 10,371,810 | 20.650,034* | 41,346,494 |

ed by George Graham who said: "I want to see a central fund which would reward clubs investing in the future." Graham believes that could include special payments being made to clubs when young players com-

plete 20 first-team games. That, however, may be where the largess ends. Which would be unfortunate as there are many other ways the money could be starts. The consequence is that

hall Trust. The recent history of the Trust has a cruel irony for smaller clubs. Ever since the Taylor Report it has been primarily working to lift ground standards. Largev funded by a reduction in the betting tax on foothall pools and spot-theball (initially from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent, now

39.5 per cent) its priority was to improve grounds as Taylor had ordered 1995. This has largely been achieved so, last year, the Trust turned its full attention to the smaller clubs whose Taylor

deadline is 2000. Last year the lottery changed everything. The Trust, dependent on the football pools, has seen its income collapse from £36.5m pa to £16.8m. A further decline of up to 60 per cent is forecast

put to good use. The the Trust cannot provide for new projects until 2000 when both most urgent and approthe Taylor deadline, and the repriate is funding the Footduction in pools betting tax, are due to expire. But what happens when the

Trust goes to Government and asks for a further reduction in the tax? "There is a perception that football is awash with money," reports Peter Lee, the Trust's chief executive. "It is at the top of the game but it is very different at the lower reaches, It is a problem getting that message through." So the smaller clubs, especially

the 17 yet to be allocated Trust funds - including Bournemouth and Brighton - suffer because of the Premiership boom, a boom that is partly due to the atmosphere created by stadiums which have been expensively refurhished with the Trust's help. Most Premiership clubs received about £2mL

At present the Premiership does give £2m each year to the Trust, but it can only be spent on Premiership clubs. The Pre-miership attitude to the Football League has not been helped by the latter's separate TV deal. The Premiership insists the when the midweek lottery League would have been better

off combining forces for a TV deal and, among some chair-men, there is a lack of sympathy for their lesser brethren, Thus the recent blackmail of financial help at the cost of a promotion place. These chairmen are more inclined to invest in the national stadium than prop up ailing lower division clubs. Scary enough so far? It could

get worse. The TV deal is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading which disputes the Premicrship's right to negotiate en bloc. If the OFT win, clubs like Manchester United could do their own deals, as has happened in some European countries, leaving the likes of Coventry and Wimbledon to fend for scraps and the lower division sides even more marginalised.

The Premiership hope to

TV's SPECIAL EFFECT

How football's income from television has exploded in the last 10 years

Pre 1988 £3.6m pa for Football Leegue (BBC/TTV); £1.4m pa for Football Association (BBC/TTV) 1988-92 £44m over 4 yrs for FL (TTV); £30m over 5 yrs for FA

(BBC/BSky8t) 1992-7 £304m over 5 yrs for Pre-miership (BSky8/BBC); £72m over 5 yrs for FA (deal superceded the final year of previous deal, BSky8t BBC); £24m over 4 yrs for FL (ITV, ended 1996) 1997-2001 £743m over 4 yrs for

Premiership (BSkyR/BBC); £130m over 4 yrs for FA (BSkyR/ITV); £125m over 5 yrs for FL (BSkyR/ ITV, this deal started in 1996)

FA Includes FA Cup and England's home internationals; FL includes Football League and League (Coca-Cola) Cup Does not include figures for away England marches (Channel Five pengland tomastic games or Champions' League (ITV paying £75m for 3 yr deal starting next season).

Welsh League have £1m deal with BBC Wales; Scottish League have £2.5m deal with BSkyB.

keep the higger clubs within ranks with the lure of pay-perview which could garner huge profits for the likes of Manchester United while keeping them in the common framework. This is not that far away. Meanwhile the gap gets ever

It would be tragic if the English game's diversity and mohility was extinguished by impoverishment just as the game was enjoying a goldrush. As Arsene Wenger recently noted the passion fans have for all clubs, not just the hig ones, is one of the English game's great strengths".

It is time for the barons to do the decent thing. As their medieval equivalents knew, such status hrings responsibility as well as privdege.



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MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

TODAY **FA Carling Premiership**

Southampton ...22 S S 1231 39 20 Middlesbrough 23 S 6 1229 43 18 Blackburn v West Harri Derby v Liverpool ... 4 Everton v Nottinghem Forest

7 Sheffleld Wednesday v Coventry .

Nationwide League First Division

13 Norwich v Barnsley 14 Port Vale v West Bro 16 QPR v Crystal Palace 16 Swindon v Sheffield Utd.

Second Division 21. Bournemouth v Blackpool 22 Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury . 24 Millwall v Bristol City

29 Stockport v Brentford 32 York v Bury ..

Third Division 33 Carlisle v Northampton 35 Doncaster v Sounthorpe ... 36 Hardepool v Scarborough 37 Hereford v Wigan 38 Hull v Chester. Mansfield v Brighton ...

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

41. Dundee Utd v Celtic.... 42 Dunfermine v Motherwelf

First Division

48 St Johnstone v Morton 49 St Mirren v Stirling

Second Division Berwick Rangers v Stranvaer. Clyde v Stenhousemur ..

Queen of the South v Brechin

Third Division Alioa v Forfar Arbroath v Queen's Park Cowdenbeath v East Stirling

Ross County v Albion Rovers TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership Nationwide League

First Division

TEAM SHEET

Aston Villa v Sunderland
Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Aston Villa ODDL: Sunderland LDWD0.
Villa midfielders Townsend (shoulder), Taylor (triight, Draper (herma) and striker Johnson (grolin) are all out. Curcic is set to continue in midfield. Sunderland are likely to field an unchanged team, with Melville determined to all in decarbe beauting his rose in midweek. to play despite breaking his nose in midweek Blackburn v West Ham Last season: 4-2. Last five League matches: Bl burn DWWDL, West Ham WLDLL.

Aston Villa v Sunderland

On-loan striker Newell is set to line up for West Ham against his former club, Blackburn, with Hammers manager Redknapp yet to sign any new front men. Rovers winger Wilcox is expected to overcome a heel injury and play, and there could be a recall for midfielder McKinlay. Derby v Liverpool Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Derby LDDLD. Liverpool DWLDW.

Rowett will reptace the suspended Daitty and line up alongside McGrath and Laursen in Derby's detence. Thomas and Babb are available again for Liverpool after completing suspensions, but England squad member Mat-**Everton v Notim Forest** Last season: 3-0. Last five League matches: Everton LUIL, Nottingham Forest DWWWL.

Forest are expected to field the same line-up that went down 1-0 to Coventry in midweek. Roy and Saunders, both troubled by hamstring injunes, are unlikely to be risked. For Everton, 5hort is almost certainly out with a head injury so teenage centre-back Dunne may get the nod.

Leeds v Arsenal Last season: 0-3. Last five League matches: Leeds LLWWD, Arsenal DWLWW, Berglamp is still suspended for Arsenai, and although Hartson is available manager Wenger is expected to stick with Winght and Merson up front. Rush is likely to start on the bench again for Leads, while Martyn has re-

Man United v Southampton Last season: 4-1. Last five League matches: chester Utd WDWWW, Southempton WLLWD. Strike pair Cole and Solskjaer could start a match together for United for the first time. Butt is still out injured, but Johnsen could return in defence. Southampton will be looking to do the double, having trounced United 6-3 at The Dell, where Ostenstad scored a hat-trick.

Sheffield Wed v Coventry

Last season: 4-3, Last five League matches: Sheffield Wednesday DDWLW, Coventry WDLLW.

Wednesday may be forced to make changes after injuries to two defenders: Walker has sore ribs and Nolan has a ligament injury. Dublin is still suspended for Coventry, and manager Strachan is likely to give debuts to midweek signings Breen and the Ukralnian, Yevtushok.

Tottenham v Chelsea on: 1-1. Last five League matches: Tottenham WILLW, Chelsea WDWLW. Anderton is likely to start on the bench again, despite making a come-back as a substitute in midweek for Spurs, while Vega is out injured. Chelsea have to decide whether they can afford to play Hughes, Zola and Vialli up front together.

Wimbledon v Middlesbrough
Last season: 0-0. Last five League matches: Wimbledon LWDLL, Middlesbrough WLLLW.

Middlesbrough will be without their Italian striker, Ravanelli, who is suspended after being sent off against Sheffield Wednesday, Wimbledon rested Jones and Ardiey against Manchester United In midweek, and both are pressing for a recall.

Tomorrow: Newcastle v Leicester Last season: Old not play. Last five League matches: Newcastle WWDDW, Leicester DDLWD. Berestord is likely to be back to strengthen Nawcastle's defence after miss-ing Wednesday's 4-1 victory over Everton with a hip injury. Leicester's main worry is striker Marshalt (groin strain). Midfielder Izzet may be asked to worty is striker Marshalt (groin strain). Midfielder izzet may be asked to drop back to defence to cover for injuries to Walsh and Whitlow.

Laudrup back up front for Rangers

Scottish football

Brian Laudrup, the Danish international, returns after a onematch absence to take the field for Rangers against Hearts at Ibrox today.

Laudrup, who has hit 13 goals this season, missed last week's Scottish Cup win over St Johnstone after suffering a recur-rence of the flu which forced him out of the last Old Firm derby.

Laudrup's return is heartening for the Rangers manager, Walter Smith, after the news that Stuart McCall will be out for the rest of the scason, McCall, who has not played for Rangers since October, is to have an operation on his medial ligament.

Paul Gascoigne and Sebastian Rozental are also on the sidelines today with ligament injuries while Erik Bo Andersen is troubled by a hamstring complaint but is hoping to play.

Gordon Durie will return for his first start since September as Rangers try to protect a vear-long unbeaten record at Ibrox in the Premier Division. Hearts were the last winners there when, again in the absence of Gascoigne, they won 3-0 thanks to a hat-trick from Alan Johnston last January. Celtic, who face a testing trip

to Dundee United, have moved within six points of the Ibrox side, with 12 games to go, as Rangers try to equal their record of nine consecutive titles. David Sinclair could be a surprise addition to the United bench at Tannadice today. Their manager, Tommy McLean, is trying to wrap up a £90,000 deal to sign Sinclair from Millwall.

under their manager, Jim Duffy.

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Stuck in backw

The Street

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Frayed nerves will dominate at Easter Road as second-bottom Hibernian face 10th-placed Raith in a survival scrap. Hibs are still seeking their first point

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ing trip minved ; Ibrox their e titles. a sur-United . Their (x) deal Ilwall. ninate J-hotplaced Hibs rpoint Duffy.

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DEPENDENT

After Admiral's deal to supply Leeds, the shirt really hit the fan No apologies for mentioning Stock-port County again, for reasons oth-er than giant-killing exploits. Walching them this week. I was reminded of the time during the Falklands War when they considered changing their strip as it resembled the Argentinian national strip. They eventually rejected the idea, but at least it was a worthwhile consider-

said for most. Take Sunderland, who are abandoning this season's hrand oew strip for a new look in 1997-98; in their defence (which is shaky at the best of times) they claim the change is to complement their new ground. Rubbish: it's just another case of manufacturers jumping on football's ever-quickening bandwagon, which would be all well and good if they occasionally thought before

ation - which is more than can be

Money isn't so much the issue bere - shelling out £70 for a new strip every other season is bad enough - as getting value for money; £70 might not hurn a hig hole in 1940s, crew-neeks in the 1960s. But the average fan's pocket if it bought something other than a "mishmash in polyester with gut-wrenching graphics" - as style magazine The Face once memorahly described football shirts.

These days the immortal line: "For those of you watching in hlack and white, Spurs are in yellow". would be more along the lines of Spurs are in the yellow-with-hinesleeves-and-white-trim-with-manufacturer's-logo-and-emblem-on-thesleeve-and-sponsor's-name-emblazoned-across-the-chest". Over the top maybe, but you get the point: modern shirt design has become as complicated as this season's fixture

Back in the old days it was simple. Leeds played in white, Liverpool in red, Chelsea in blue, QPR wore hoops, Bristol Rovers quarters. No pinstripes, jacquard weaves, shoulder flashes, drawstrings or buttons. Development was to necklines: laceups in the 1930s, V-necks in the

in 1973 Admiral paved the way for manufacturers with their deal to supply Leeds - that classic all-white strip has never been the same since, with "Thistle Hotels" taking precedence over the club crest - and the

shirt really hit the fan. Granted, the retro look has been making a comeback in recent years, exemplified in Liverpool's current home strip; Everton's salmon and navy away strip (based on an 1880s design): Newcastle's current away strip (which harks back to the club's origins); and Manchester United's green and yellow strip (worn by Newton Heath in 1892 - even if Umhro did get the colours the wrong way round).

But there have still been some howlers. Ipswich's strip looks like it's been dipped in hleach, Nottingham Forest's like something the cal. rather than Umbro, brought in. And of course there was the Eogland away strip, designed by Umbro to "look good with jeans". We know Olivia Blair

صكذا من الاعل



that today's strip designs cater for the consumer as much as the club, but that really was stretching the point And the colour - a murky shade of battleship grey (they pre-ferred "indigo blue") was the final straw. England's away strip has traditionally been St George's red (except for the nasty blue early 1990s version, and in 1973 when Bobby Moore looked out of sorts in yellow). Thank goodness consumer power

has moved Umbro to reintroduce the red away strip in May.

But away strips have always been something of a grey area. Fifa's criterion is that they should avoid clashing with any home strip in that division, which means clubs experiment with increasingly diverse comhinations to obtain a design that's unique - and fits the bill. Last season. West Brom wore a Brazilianstyle yellow and sky hlue away strip. with, says Mike Campion, MD of manufacturers Patrick UK, "a distinctly Brazilian look. Unfortunately, the team played in a distinctly un-Brazilian way?. Ditto Crystal Palace and Coventry who both sported Brazilian-style strips which

were binned almost before they'd made their debuts. The arbitrary nature of away strips struck me at Fratton Park last weekend where Reading wore a red and white away strip, with blue and white striped socks; a token gesture to the Royals' traditional colours which just made the look uncoordinated. Arsenal themselves are fashion, Aberdeen have abandoned bringing out a second away strip in the summer, another vellow and blue one to replace the two-tone blue strip, which always seemed more with shoulder pads, while Celtie's suited to White Hart Lanc than

Highbury anyway. But then some clubs have more scope than others, as Spurs' marketing manager, Kay Lyons, explains: "I don't think Arsenal would get as much stick having blue in a strip as we would having red. Even a touch of red in a Spurs kil would make the fans see red." Spurs' strip is manufactured by

Pony, who canvas fans' opinions for their designs. Let's hope that Admiral, soon to return to the marketplace through the leisurewear company Hay & Robertson (who also market pyjamas and underwear bearing the FA crest), do likewise and stay clear of those strips made infamous by England of the early

English clubs aren't alone in perpetraing crimes against football

their classic red strip in favour of a shirt interwoven with irregular shades of black and topped off away strip is a luminous yellow-andbrown striped number suggesting a spurious hands-across-the-water link with Borussia Dortmund, And in Brazil, Nike have committed the ultimate act of heresy by putting thick green stripes down that classic gold sleeve. Brazil's national press have likened the move to sticking a sponsor's name on the national flag. Unsurprisingly, the president of the Brazilian Football Confederation has defended it - the deal is worth around \$100m (£62.5m)

Some people, however, obviously appreciate gaudy shirts. Sum-marising fair the Leeds against Crystal Palace Cup tic, David Plear observed: "What a splendid encounter between two teams in hrightly coloured shirts," And this was Radio Five Live.

Goodison pressure on Royle

Guy Hodgson looks forward to the best of today's Premiership programme

By any criteria, Liverpool have had a ropey week. Knocked out of the FA Cup by Chelsea after leading 2-0 on Sunday, humiliated in a six-a-side tournament in Amsterdam and then overtaken by Manchester United, of all teams, at the top of the Premiership.

But, as your mother used to say, there are always people worse off than yourself, and Liverpool supporters do not have to search too far to find someone. Compared to what has been going on at Everton, the last few days have been oulstanding at Anfield.

A sense of angry gloom has himg over Goodison Park, the egacy of losing to Bradford City in the FA Cup and their sixth successive Premiership defeat in Newcastle. In addition, their best player, Andrei: Kanchel-). skis, has been sold to Fiorentina while remours have circulated that their record £6m signing, Nick Barmby, was about to leave. grasp at greatness and missed

Barmby has denied that, despite being dropped for the game at Newcastle, and he ingratiated himself further on the eve of today's match with Nottingham Forest in Joe Royle's eyes by making a spirited defence of his manager, "Of course he is still the right man for the job," he said. "I can't believe everyone is calling for his head. It's important to maintain stability.

Since he's been here, he's won the FA Cup and taken us from the bottom of the league to the top half. They would be happy with that at Tottenham and Middlesbrough."
Nevertheless, the ominous

words "Royle out" were daubed on the walls of Everton's training ground this week and it is unlikely anyone will add "standing to the message if they lose today and create a club record for successive League defeats.



Andrei Kanchelskis shows off his new Fiorentina shirt yesterday after his £8m transfer from Everton

them and there will be suspicions of a trend if they fall at Derby to-day, A letter in the Liverpool Echo last night summed up feelings on Merseyside. "The likes of McManaman, Fowler, Collymore and Berger should," it read, "make us a side feared in Europe. This, though, is not the case. The author could not divine

why, although this critic believes lack of backbone and discipline might be the answer. Certainly Derby's Jim Smith echoed more than one Premiership manager when he said yesterday: "Last Sunday's game The current Liverpool team have had a number of chances to showed that if you get among them and don't allow them to play, Liverpool find it difficult."

No ooe has found playing Southampton more difficult recently than Manchester United. who lost 3-1 io April and 6-3 in November. In some managers that might have encouraged ambitions of retribution at Old Trafford today, although Alex Ferguson has loftier sights, "I don't care if it's 1-0 or 13-12 as long as we win," he said. "Re-

venge won't come into it." Top of the table again, Ferguson believes that spring and his team's best form might be coinciding again. "You look at the chances we made against Wimhiedon on Wednesday and you think someone is going to suffer. One day we'll get a barrel-load." Southampton, fresh from an ignominious defeat by Stockport in the Coca-Cola Cup, were praying last night it will not be them. West Ham have been on their knees for most of the winter af-

ter one win in 16 matches and their manager, Harry Redknapp, is suffering the same doubts that have surrounded Joe Royle's future. On Wednesday, supporters barricaded the team into Upton Park after losing to Arsenal but an away game at Blackburn will not come as a relief.

"If I had my way we would play all our games at home." Slaven Bilic, their Croatian central defender, said, "because the fans have been tremendous.

Hopefully they will be there to help us get the result we need." Giveo Blackhurn's current home form - last defeat on 22 October - that is unlikely. Ruud Gullit tried a dose of

ayer power this week, letting his Chelsea players choose their own style for the London derby al Tottenham. Gullit staged practice games with different tactics and then asked his stars

which way they wanted to play.

"They all had the same solution," said Gullit, happy with their choice. "I thought they would want to play that way, You know what is in your own mind but you have to give players responsibility."

No 203 Stockport County by Dave Espley

posed trivia questions of recent weeks; which English team is still challenging for four do-mestic trophies? The answer. of course, was Stockport County, the perennial lower-division strugglers, and even if the question has now been renered obsolute by last week's FA Cup defeat at Birmingham, we were until then the most successful side in cup football in England this season, And we're now in the semi-finals of a major competition for the first time in our history.

It's a tremendous position for little old Stockport to find themselves in Normally, we play the role of "little club plug-ging away gamely in the shadows cast by the two Manchester giaots. (OK, City's shadow isn't cast too far these days, but it still reaches Stockport, believe me). This seasoo, however, has been a revelation for County fans. Strange as it may seem, with

success still being pursued on three fronts, the job of the were lying second bottom of the Second Division, had lost four. oul of six games, drawn the others, and scored a single measly ng we had to took forward to No doubt fearing for his em-

called in his senior pros to thrash out what was wroog. After what is usually referred to as "a frank exchange of views," we beal Plymouth 3-1 on that fateful Saturday, following which the collective sigh of relief from Edgeley Park measured nine on the Beaufort Scale, and caused ships in the North Sea to list alarmingly. And then Our season started -

It was one of the most widely- Included in that run are victories at Ewood Park, Bramall Lane, the Victoria Ground. Stoke, and now The Dell, as well as a draw at Upton Park. At Edgeley, we've beaten West Ham to the replay, drawn with Southampton and massacred promotion-chasing Millwall a fortnight ago to such an extent that the receivers were called in.

So what made the difference? It's impossible to say, quite frankly. No signings were made, the squad, which was widely regarded as one of County's strongest ever, has simply started playing to the level which had been anticipated in the close season, leading most of us to assume that the first half-dozen games were merely an aberration, and that the real County have been on display in the 30 games since. It could also be argued that

we have not really got any absolutely outstanding players. That's not to belittle any of them; what I mean is they re all good (and if you think that's simply the hlinkered ramhlings manager. Dave Jones, was of a supporter, well, you're widely held to he only slightly right, but take a look at that 30more secure than Alan Ball's on game record again). Of those the morning of 14 September that do stand out, Luis Cavaco. last. Prior to that day, County our Portuguese winger, has reportedly caught the eye of Ruud Gullit, full-back Scan Connelly has reportedly been looked at by Liverpool, and star goal. A prolonged relegation striker Alun Armstrong has rebattle, it seemed, was the only portedly interested just about everyone, but to algaligat thos players is to do a massive dis service to the rest of the team. ployment, Jones reportedly At the moment, it's simply impossible to pick out anyone play ing badly.
It's hard to believe we'll ac-

tually win the Coca-Cola Cup. of course; Stockport County just isn't that kind of club. I'll be quite happy, however, if. when the inevitable happens and, say, a further two of the four bubbles burst, the one still floating represents the Sec-ond Divisioo championship. and how. In the 30 League and Promotion to the First Division cup games since that first win, will be the only fitting concluwe've only been beaten twice. sion to such an amazing season.

Todd emphasises consistency for Blues' visit

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Bolton may be 11 points clear al the top of the First Division, but yesterday their manager. Colin Todd, insisted before Birmingham's visit today: "The main thing is we maintain our consistency. We have got ourselves into a very strong position, but there's still a long way to go."
Todd hopes his midfielder

Tomorrow's National League

fixtures have been kind to the

clubs at the top and for once

there is unlikely to be very much

change in the leading positions,

but it is the bartling of Barford Tigers, Hounslow and Surbiton at the bottom which is the eco-

tre of interest, writes Bill Colwill.

most certain - they are currently

11 points adrift of Surbiton - it

seems merely a question of

Surbiton are at home to Ted-

dirigton, who with the return of

Jason Laslett and the arrival of

Nick Conway just before Christmas are riding high in third place. Although Surbilon an-

nounce a full squad for the first

time in several weeks, it would

who will join them.

With Havant's relegation al-

John Sberidan recovers from the muscle injury that kept him out of the midweek win at Stoke. Wanderers also have the winger David Lee fit again after a hamstring injury as they seek their seventh successive League win.

Birmingham's player-coach, Steve Bruce, starts a two-match suspension, with Michael Johnson coming into central defence. But Trevor Francis will have his

he something of a miracle if they

Hourslow, with an unchanged

squad, entertain fifth-placed Old

Loughtonians, who have Julian

Halls back after injury. The Old

Oxford University, struggling to stave off relegation from

the First Division, have taken

the unprecedented step of re-

calling past student and German

Under-21 international Hen-

ning Tewes for the visit of

were to stop Teddington.

resources strengthened by Nicky Forster and Anders Limpar following their moves from Brentford and Everton.

Howard Kendall will be hop-

ing that yesterday's £700,000 signing, Jan Age Fjortoft from Middlesbrough, will give sec-ond-placed Sheffield United a lift at the Norwegian's former club. Swindon, who will miss Kevin Horlock following the Northern Ireland midfielder's

City. Swindon's player-manager Steve McMahon may be pressed into action while Mark Wallers is pushing for a recall

after a thigh injury.

Bradford City, who followed their FA Cup win at Everton with a 1-0 midweek victory over Port Vale to move out of the bottom three, expect Andy Kiwomya, Carl Shurt and Des Hamilton to shake off knocks for

£1.5m move to Manchester the derby with Huddersfield at Valley Parade. Huddersfield, who lost 4-1 at Reading in midweek, have Tom Cowan, Roh Edwards, Wayne Burnett and Simon Collins back in contention.

The Norwich manager, Mike Walker, will be without Shaun Carey, who has a hamstring problem, but has lan Crook and Andy Johnson back in the squad for the visit of Barnsley to Carrow Road. Barnsley, two

places above the Canaries in third, have the Dutch defender Arjan De Zeeuw doubtful with the chest infection that ruled him out of the 3-2 win at Grimsby on Wednesday, with Peter Shirtliff set to cootinue. Elsewhere Queen's Park

Rangers, on the up, welcome Crystal Palace, on the slide, to Loftus Road while Wolves, fourth, entertain their fellow challengers Stoke at Molineux.

DAY'S LATE RESULTS: Sup

The RAC Rolly will be based at Chelten-harn's National Hunt race course, Prest-bury Park, for the next three years.

ice hockey

Rugby Union WITERNATIONAL MATCHES: Engind A 52 Scotland A 17 at Stoop Memorial Ground): England Under-21 35 Scotland Under-21 44 Ireland Under-21 44 Ireland Under-21 16 I at Bragging).

MEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP SLALOM (Schled-mins Aut. Thursdayk 1 A Tombo (It) Iron

Skiing

REGAL WELSH OPEN (Newport) Quarter-fi-nals: M lvng (Eng. 5) F O'Bren vini 5-2; 5 Hendry (Sco) bt T Murphy (N lvn 5-3.

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Brosbourne 2 Chich-

England stuck in backwater

Bottom clubs to do battle

England retreat to the international backwaters of Guildford for their final European Championship semi-final group game, but the visit of Russia to the Spectrum Arena on 26 February will not be the last game in charge for the coach, Lazio Nemeth, writes Richard Taylor.

The Hungarian's three-year contract lasts until the end of May, but earlier in that month Nemeth will guide England in one of four qualifying tournaments for the 1999 European finals. The draw for those events will be made after the final round of group games this month settles the line-up for this summer's finals. The Basketball

League, which promotes England's home games, have been unable to attract sponsorship or coverage to generate income necessary to stage the Russian game at one of the major arenas.

The League's chief executive, Mike Smith, said: "Without an element of success it is so difficult to attract interest." The irony will not be lost on those who see the League's decision to allow five Americans per club as a significant factor in the

England team's decline. Having hired, fired and recycled more than 70 Americans this season, it was little wonder that yesterday's transfer deadline passed quietly. Ed Harmon joined Worthing and Scott Paterson signed for Newcastle.

Semi-final slot puts Rusedski back in top 50

Tennis

Boys, smarting after last week's 5-1 thrashing by Canterbury and Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, heat the 24-year-old still in with an outside title chance, are unlikely to give Czech Republic player, Martin Hounslow's hopes a boost. Damm, 7-5, 6-3, to reach the Barford Tigers' chance of semi-finals of the Croatian Open in Zagreb yesterday. points will not be good against visiting Guildford, who rattled The win ensures that Rusedin eight against Hounslow last ski will he back in the top 50 in

the world wheo the next rankings are announced by the ATP on Monday. Rusedski is now ranked 56, having gone down from 48 at the end of 1996 following first-round defeats in the New Zealand and Australian Opens. But yesterday he was back to his best, dropping only 18 points in his 11 service games and was only once in trouble. That was after breaking

Damm's serve to lead 4-2 in the

second set. He went 15-40 down on his own serve in the next game hnt saved three break points before holding serve for -2. Then he served out to 15 for a deserved victory in 80 minutes. Steffi Graf, the world No 1 surprisingly eliminated in the fourth round at the recent Australian Open after problems with an infected toe, is on course to meet the new world No 2, Martina Hingis, in the final of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. Graf, the top seed, meets Brenda Schultz-Mo-Carthy in the semi-finals after defeating Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-2, 6-3. The 16-year-old Hingis, who last week in Melbourne became the youngest winner of a Grand

Slam event this century, meets

the fourth seed, Anke Huber of

Germany, in the other semi-final.

SPORTING DIGEST a one-year contract after his release by Hampshire. American football

Bill Parcetts, who took the New England Patriots to the Super Bowl last week, is stepping down as coach. His resig-nation came two days after the NFL com-missioner, Paul Tagliabue, ruled that Parcell's contract with the Patriots pro-hibits him from working for another NFL team next season without permission. Joe Bugel, the Oakland Raiders' offen-sive coech for the last two years and a former Arizona Cardinals' coach, has been named head coach of the Raiders

Josia Thugwane, who he became the first black South African to win an Ol-ymple gold medal when he won the marathon in Atlanta last summer, has entered the London Marathon.

Bedimination

ENGISH NICTIONAL CHAMPIONISHE'S (Norwich)
Marris singles, first round; G Hurrel (Horits) to
1 Gooden (Hersd 15-7 15-10; S Warnel (Burrey)
at C Feston (Yorks) 10-15-16; 10-5; 1-10; R Doing (Berst) to A South (Norw) 15-2 15-10; S Pandya (Shift) in C Haughton Lances) who D Landey (Norw)
DLA Thibhorge (Horis) 15-3 15-7; P Noch (Sloues)
DLA Thibhorge (Horis) 15-3 15-7; P Noch (Sloues)
DLA Thibhorge (Horis) 15-5; IN Ship (Wint) to
S basec (Sucsed) who: M Edge (Lances) bit N Panetar (Yorks) 15-0 15-5; N Warnerman (Norm) to M
Thipp (Sucsed) who: S Beth (Edge) to M Holl (Nortion) 15-0 15-11; P Buch (Wint) to M
Holl (Nortion) 15-0 15-11; P Buch (Wint) to P Harder (Wilts) 15-18 15-6; M Shipper (Horits) to
M Scrobes (Surrey) 15-15-10; P Jorfey (EsSE) but A Cash (Nors) 15-12-15-9, Second manual:
G Hurrell to D Horit (Escal) who.

Backetball MBA: New Jersey 113 Phoens 101; Dellas 82 Minnesota 92; Houston 109 Denver 113; Usah 102 Albina 96; LA Cappers 100 Vancouver 94; Sacramento 93 Chicago 111. THARESDAY'S LATE RESULT: Backweiter Langues London Leopards 83 Manchester (Birds 90).

SAAA WORLD BUDOOR CHAMPIONSHEPS (Pre-stos) Singles quarter-dinale: H Duff (Scot) bt I Allock, Isra) 7-57-4 5-7 8-7 7-4 prepaid Trurs-dow). Semi-ficale: H Duff (Scot) bt G Heatow (Eng. 5-7 7-4 7-4 7-6. Pairs semi-dinale D Robinson and 2 Mortly (Eng. bt 1 Toylor and 3 Glasson (Aus) 4-7 8-7 7-5 7-3 7-5 (played Thursday).

Crawford Ashley, the British light-heavy-weight champion, will meet Spain's Roberto Dominguez for the vacant Eu-ropean title in Liverpool on 1 March, Dominguez replaces Norway's Ole Kle-messes who is intered. en, who is injured. The British Boxing Board of Control has fined Wales' Joe Calzagne £5,000 for withdrawing from his British super-middleweight title defence against Paul

Cricket

Sussex have signed the former Middlesex pace bowler Martin Thursfield, 25, on

After generating a club record profit of more than £258,000 in 1995, Notunghamshire made only £68,075 last year, due largely to a bigger wage bill.

year, tuts largery to a bagger weiger bill, SHEFFED SHEED Second day of four; Bris-bener Queensiend 179 and 195 for 2 (T) Bere-by 1071; Western Australa 133, (A Date 5-43), Helsbourner New South Wales 290 and 114 for 2; Victora 164 IB E McNamera 5-30), THURSDAYS (ATE SCORES): Tour match (One day) Pletermarktologi; South Africa A 251 for 5 ISO overs); India 94 for 5 (24.2 overs) (March abundoned - Jan).

Tottenham are to give a trial to Clyde-bank's Scotland Under-21 internation-al winger, Gery Teale.

al winger, Gary, Reale.

TRANSFERS: David Reab (brward) Oxford this brish (1980,000): Simon Ireland Imediacider Montfield to Doricaster (undeclosed feet; Shean Reald (matteiger) Bury to Creaster (undeclosed feet; Shean Reald formatione) or Creaster (undeclosed feet; Real Beard of the Control of the Contro Wales have delayed naming a revised squad for their 11. February friendly against the Republic of Ireland in Car-diff until Monday.

Ournisy have been excused of any blame by the Football Association following the failure of floodlights at their FA Cup re-play against Walsaif on 17 December, Walsaif were leading 1-0 at half-time

Welsell were leading 1-0 at half-time when the lights went out.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Special Captourts round first leg: Barcelone 3 (Fonaldo 13, Nadal 10, Giovanni 78) Risel Medine 2 (Suiter 16, Natro 677; Tenento O Real Bers 2. Pondina Inagine Cap Group Three Trammer 0 Stoke 1. NATIONMEDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Fidure changies: Re-arranged distant Tule 18 Fabrication y Mensiled (from 25 July, Wed 29 Fabrication 18 Mai: York Peterborough (from 21 Lan). The 2. Apr. Otheran te Bringingen (from 25 Dec.). The 22 Apr. Colonia V. Bringingen (from 25 Dec.). The 22 Apr. Lution v. Bury (from 1 Jan). Fri 25 Apr. Botton v. Cherton (from 25 Dec.). The 25 Apr. Botton v. Cherton (from 25 Dec.). The 25 Apr. Botton v. Cherton (from 25 Dec.). The 25 Apr. Botton v. Cherton (from 25 Dec.). Postponed matches: Tue 4 Fabr. Cardiff v. Scurthorpe; Walesti v. Blackgool. Tue 18 Fabr. Stockport v. York.

Golf GOIF
HEINEIGEN CLASSIC (The Vines, Perth, Ann.)
Loading second-noted scores (66 or id unless stated: 133 P Harmgton 70 63, 135 F Nobto (NC) 66 9-136 6 Turner (NC) 65 7-1, 137 M Campbell (NC) 68 68, M A Mertin (Sp) 70 57, P McGarley 72-65, P O'Maley (Aus.) 68 69, K To-mon (Lepani 69 68, W Ritey (Aus.) 71 66, 138 J Van de Velde IPr) 69 69, F Couples (US. 68 70, P Breadman, 71 57, 139 T Bjorn (Der) 69 70, P Breadman, 71 69, R Chapman 70 69, M Grady (Aus.) 67 72, E Bouti (NC) 70 69, D Carter 70 69, M Torrich 67 72, J Robson 72 67, 140 P Servin (Aus.) 69 71, R Giston (Carlo Ti. 69, K Chuse, (Ms) 71 67, A REIT (MATIONAL) PRO-AMI (Pebble Beach,

strengthy Leargine
SUPER LEAGUE WORLD NINES (Townsville,
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South Africa 10; New Zestand 14 Torga 4; New
Zestand 12 France 10; Australia 24 United States
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Football's £243m question

Glenn Moore on how to spend all that money, page 30

sport

Christie's final frontier

The former Olympic champion is back in the spotlight, page 29

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: A cohesive Scottish unit wants to play on England's nerves

De Glanville feels burden of expectation

CHRIS HEWETT

Rugby Union Correspondent

The great and good of the Rugby Football Union may have delivered their long-awaited verdict on the peace deal with England's senior clubs, but the jury is still out on the national team itself. If Jack Rowell's newlook outfit goes belly-up against Scotland at Twickenham today, capital punishment will be the least the coach can expect

to get away with.
For this side, controversial in the rejection of Jeremy Guscott and Ben Clarke, has little to do with round-table consensus and everything to do with Rowell in his role as Big White Chief. As Phil de Glanville admitted on Thursday, the captain's input on selection was consultative rather than decisive.

It is reasonable to assume that De Glanville, under considerable pressure for his own place in midfield, would feel more comfortable operating alongside Guscott, Mike Catt and Adedayo Adebayo, all of whom are cluhmates at Bath. Familiarity counts for an awful lot, especially in the hurly-burly of a Calcutta Cup match, but the skipper does not have that lux-

Two crucial clements in England's plan to expand their game beyond the postage stamp limits of Murrayfield 1996 - Tim Stimpson, the full-hack, and Richard Hill, the new open-side flanker - are unknown quanti-

no hope of a telepathic understanding at this early juncture, and therein lies the rub: the Scots, lightweight up front and workaday out wide, have nonetheless developed an enviably intimacy in the crucial decisionmaking positions of back-row and half-back, and if they can pinch a decent share of pos-

ssion, they will be dangerous Rob Wainwright, their captain, was in bullish mood yesterday as he mulled over what he considered to he conflicting statements of intent from the rival camp. "I've read comments by both De Glanville and Paul Grayson, their outside-half, and they seem to be saying different things," he said after a brief training run at Bracknell. "Phil was insisting that winning was the only important thing. which suggests that England

might play to their traditional forward strength. Paul, on the other hand, was talking in terms of striking a happy medium between the fast. open game we saw from England against Italy in November - when, incidentally, they were under very little pressure - and the sterile approach we saw at Murrayfield last year."

Given that the Scots, with lan Smith restored to the open-side flank and his namesake Tom, a loose-head prop in the mould of the 1990 Grand Slam captain David Sole, making his debut in the front row, are well-equipped to feed off the slightest hint of ties at Test level. There can be more than happy at the prospect

ENGLAND V SCOTLAND

. Gath 14 D Stark. Hartegums 13 A Stanger

Newcastle 11 K Logan...

Leicester 1 T Smith

Bostol 2 G Elis

Harlegues 3 M Stewart

Leicester 4 G Weir.

Saracens 7 I Smith

Referee: P O'Brien (New Zealand). Kick-off: 3.0 (BBC1, highlights Sky Sports 2, 9.30).

of England failing to sing from

the same bymn sheet. If Tom Smith, a squat, powerful 25-year-old Watsonian, turns out to be a quarter as good as Sole - a state-of-the-art loose head if ever there was one then Jason Leonard will be in for an interesting 80 minutes today. Not so much at the setpiece, which even the Scots describe as Smith's most obvious weakness, but in the loose; the visitors believe the new boy can make a major impact at ruck and maul, as well as in the

tackle count By coincidence, the last Tom Smith to make his Scottish debut at Twickenham ended up scoring a winning try from the second row. That was in 1983, however, and the Scots, who have not won in London since, have barely managed to cross the English line either.

It is now eight years since John Jeffrey, the Great White Shark, took advantage of a suc-cession of English cock-ups to score in front of the old North Stand, and Wainwright is realistic enough to know that chances will be at a premium this afternoon. "I expect England to tackle hard and operate their customary tight defence," be admitted.

But for all their own talk of working the wide open spaces, England have been equally harren on the try-scoring front. They have not breached the Scottish line since 1993, when Stuart Barnes ripped the visitors to shreds in midfield, and the three subsequent games had been mere benefit occasions for a trio of kickers - Jon Callard in 1994, Rob Andrew a year later and the much-criticised

Grayson last season. If Rowell ends up relying on Grayson's accuracy again today, the fell sound of knives being sharpened will be almost deafcuing. Scotland's dire performanoc against Wales a fortnight ago has done the English few favours, for it only served to increase the burden of expectancy in England.

While Wainwright yesterday wore the relaxed look of a man who knew full well that his side could not possibly play as badly again. Rowell and De Glanville had no such comfort zone in which to recline. It is likely to be very edgy indeed. Return of the natives, page 28



Overlond: Jack Rowell (left), the England coach, oversees line-out drills during training at

M Regan.

In Monday's 20-page sports section

Tony Underwood gives his verdict on England's performance in the Calcutta Cup

Stirling County

T CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

Creature (like a scorpion?) is attacking (9)
One's out of the country

for a time (4) 0 Female's spoken verse on highest deity (5)

I Corresponds from the tropics: (9) 2 Sporting event requiring great nimble reserves (7) 3 It's rough following in-

ternational crash (7) 4 Putting one's faith in a happy medium? (13) 7 This gale could be why torn trees bent round

1 Head Ulster Unionist aboard coach (7)

2 Worst combine among worst (7) 4 The sort who readily comes to mind? (9) 5 Articulate characters?

Not all! (5) b New blue edging, smooth 7 ... woven satin in nap, proving impervious (9)

DOWN

One with class, using Michigan accent? (8) Brief fellow lost is being located (5)

How to get a binder (be ing disorganised)? (14) Introduce what's re-

quired, including motorway system (7) Welsh handle gravelly granite (7) Cusp error recalculated

to discover what went before (9) 8 Had snack - no spread 9 A familiar characteristic

of copper? (4-10) 15 Long for a crackpot italian clown (9) 16 Regales one, we hear, in

a minor way (8) 18 Perhaps boxer's not quite the word for this Det? (71 19 Gets on? With 'B' in

English attainments? (7) 20 Radar screens, say - and range is short (6) 23 Girl's spent morning in the country (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Ber 4018, The Independent, t Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Peggy Few, Cheliaston; Revd. David Watson, South Croydon; M Corieir, Thurse; J Valentine, London Wée H Hirst, Shipley.

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Rovers deny Lazio move for Eriksson

Football ALAN NIXON

Sven Goran Eriksson emerged last night as the favoured candidate to manage Lazio, despite denials from Blackburn Rovers that he would leave them in the

Robert Coar, the Rovers chairman, said: "We have a written agreement with Sven that he will come to us in July." However. there have been differences behind the scenes over transfer targets. Rovers are close to completing the £2.5m signing of Polish striker Marek Citko, who

was not on Eriksson's wanted list. Bruce Rioch was approached by West Bromwich Albion last night to fill their managerial vacancy. Rioch, No 2 at Queen's Park Rangers, has emerged as the first choice of the Albion board, who are asking for permission to speak 10 him this weekend.

If Rioch turns down the offer, West Brom may turn to the Birmingham player-coach, Steve Bruce, although Ian Rush, out of favour at Leeds, yesterday became a late addition to a shortlist of applicants which also includes Ray Harford, Danny Wilson and John Rudge.

The Leeds chairman, Bill Fotherby, has confirmed that Parma have paid a fee to keep Tomas Brolin until the end of the season. Leeds will receive around £300,000 for the loan deal but the club have valued Brolin at more than £3m if the clubs agree to a

permanent transfer. Leicester City's Neil Lennon has lost an appeal against his sending off in last week's FA Cup tie with Norwich. Lennon was dismissed with Matt Jackson following an off-the-ball clash in their fourth-round match.

Brighton's proposed groundshare at Gillingham has run into trouble after Gillingham Council wrote to the Football League to oppose the move. However, a successful second round of talks yesterday at the Centre of Dispute Resolution in London be-

Keegan wishes Dalglish well

Kevin Keegan has applauded the choice of Kenny Dalglish, who succeeded him as manager of Newcastle United earlier this month. "I'll always have an interest in Newcastle United - I love the club. I think Kenny is the right choice for the new manager and I wish him all the best."

tween the Brighton chairman, Bill Archer, and Dick Knight, head of the consortium trying to take over the club, have offered hope. A statement issued by the Centre said that the two had "made further progress in working out a framework for a po-tential restructuring of the club."

Bradford have signed the Por-tuguese striker Edinho from Vitoria Guimaraes for £250,000.

England pay for casual air

MARK BALDWIN reports from Wanganui

England are heading for their first defeat in New Zealand, after a lacklustre display against New Zealand A on the second

day here yesterday.

The timing of this game has not helped England, with just one travel day in between the torture of the final afternoon of the Auckland Test and the start of this four-dayer. A sporty pitch for much of the first two days has also proved a disincentive.

So much for the excuses, the facts are that England are now 261 runs behind New Zealand's second team after being bowled out for a tour-low 107 and then bowling indifferently themselves as the Kiwi side reached 187 for 4 in their second innings.

The decision to play all five of the players who did not play at Auckland has given England a weakened side, with the presence of only four front-line batsmen putting them at a disadvantage on a lively pitch that finally settled down yesterday afternoon. England's players seemed to

ose some of their enthusiasm for the fray as if they were going through the motions before next week's Test and then the Christchurch Test which immediately follows it. Tempers were even shorten-ing towards the end of the day,

especially when several appeals were turned down. Their lack of interest seemed to increase the moment that Geoff Allott and Heath Davis emerged to bowl with as much. if not more, hostility than on the first evening and any hopes of

plosively when England resumed on 30 for 3. Both harbour ambitions of making the second Test in Wellington, and the variation offered by Allott's bustling left-armers might just swing

a first-innings lead soon dis-appeared as the pair bowled ex-

the vote his way. Davis, meanwhile, is a far beter bowler than he was when b toured England back in 1996 and took 1 for 93 in 21 oversa Trent Bridge, a game which re mains his only Test. The ball which claimed Nas

er Hussain, a rapid lifter from just short of a length. was a close to being unplayable as makes no difference.

Hussain was fifth out, taken at third silp off the shoulder of the bat, and soon England were 57 for 7 with Croft edging Davis to third slip and Jack Russell fending off another nasty de-

livery to gully.

Davis had taken three wicken in 12 balls and when he rested his overall figures were an imessive 4 for 22 from 14 overs. His partner in destruction, the 25-year-old Allott, finished with 4 for 44 when he ended Ronnie Irani's resistance. When New Zealand A re-

sumed with a lead of 74 their opener Craig Spearman also did his Test chances no harm, hitting an attractive 47 before Irani had him taken at slip. Irani i was the one England player to conerge from the day with credit, following his gutsy innings of 40 with a spell of medium pace which above it that he is still which showed that he is still capable of fighting back from what has been a personally deflating tour.

John Emburey, the England assistant coach, looked on the bright side of a disappointing day. "It's more important in these games for the players on the fringe of the Test team - like Chris Silverwood, Robert Croft and Ronnie Irani; to get the opportunities of cricket in case they are selected for the next ," he said.; -

"It has not been ideal having to start this game after just one day off following the first Test but we agreed to this itinerary so we just have to get on with

England job, page 29

Second day of four, New Zepterd A won rises NEW ZEALAND A - Second hunture NEW ZEALAND A - Seek huntur 1811 (M * D) Minney b Coddles Thomas 64; C E W Strangood 6-69) C M Specimen C Wright b New ENGLAND - Float business

men c Kright b har -

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eacocks. Much preening. They were spotted in the grounds of Saltwood Castle, Kent - the home of newly selected Tory candidate Alan Clark. A chap who IMAGE OF There's more than a hint of arm ce about the THE WEEK displays more than a hint of the Beacock himself Photograph: Brian Harris, using 160 ASA film, 180mm lens, 250th of second at f5.6. To order a print of this picture for £14, call 0171-293 2534



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CAL CAPITATION I

Martin sign Trees, abusid

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freedom; secretly they amused themselves with the challenge of finding me a second wife. On my visits to Toronto they connived like teenagers. Lunches, family parties, faculty dinners - every event a potential romantic minefield, with Maurice planting the bombshells. Maurice would make the introductions and then scram. I was accustomed to his refrain: "Now Jakob, I know

this woman..." and remained unmoved. But sometimes the world disrobes, slips its dress off a shoulder, stops time for a beat. If we look up at that moment, it's not due to any ability of ours to pierce the darkness, it's the world's brief bestowal. The catastrophe of grace.

I had been visiting Toronto part of every year for over 18 years before she walked into

Maurice and Irena's kitchen. I don't know what to look at first. Her lighthrown hair or her dark-brown eyes or her small hand disappearing into the shoulder of

her dress to adjust a strap. Michaela is an administrator at the museum," says Maurice as he makes his exit.

Her mind is a palace. She moves through history with the fluency of a spirit, mourns the burning of the library at Alexandria as if it happened yesterday. She discusses the influence of trade routes on European

architecture, while still noticing the pattern of

light across a table.... There's no one left in the kitchen. All around us are glasses and small towers of dirty dishes. The noise of the party in the other room. Michaela's hips lean against the kitchen counter. Voluptuous scholar. Michaela has only recently met Irena. She's

asking after her. I find myself telling Michaela a story that's a dozen years old, the story of Tomas's birth, about my experience of his soul.

When Tomas was born, he was very premature. He weighed less than three

I had put on a gown, scrubbed my hands and arms to the elbows, and Ireoa led me in to

or years after my marriage ended, Madrice and Irena pretended to envy my. TWORDS OF THE WEEK

The Independent's reviewer summed up Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels thus: 'I can't imagine a better novel being published this year.' Here is an extract from this luminous first novel

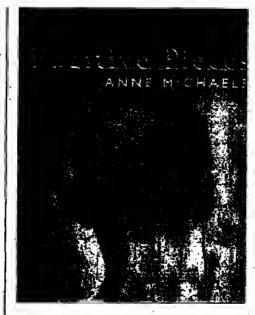
see him. I saw what I can only call a soul, for it was not yet a self, caught in that almost transpareot body. I have never hefore been so close to such palpable evidence of the spirit, so close to the almost invisible musselman whose eyes in the photos show the faint stain of a soul. Without breath, the evidence would vanish instantly. Tomas in his clear plastic womh, barely bigger than a hand.

Michaela has been looking down at the floor. Her hair, glossy and heavy and parted on the side, covers her face. Now she looks up. Suddenly I'm embarrassed at having spoken so much. Then she says: "I don't know what the soul is. But I imagine that somehow our bodies surround what has always been."

Standing together on the winter sidewalk, in the white darkness. I know even less than lamplight in a window, which knows how to pour itself into the street and arouse the longing of one who waits. Her hair and hat circle her quiet face. She's

young. There are twenty-five years between us. Looking at her I feel such pure regret, such clean sadness, it's almost like joy. Her hat, the snow, remind me of Akhmatova's poem where, in two lines, the poet shakes her fists theo closes her hands in prayer: "You're many years late how happy I am to see you."

The winter street is a salt cave. The snow has stopped falling and it's very cold. The cold is spectacular, penetrating. The street has been silenced, a theatre of whiteness, drifts



like frozen waves. Crystals glisten under the streetlights. She points out her impractical boots, "party shoes," and then I feel her small leather glove around my arm.

Michaela lives above a bank. Her flat is a monastic cell of a sensuous order. I've entered an old world; the specifications of a dream.

Magazines - Nature, Archaeology, The Conservator - and piles of books - novels, art history, children's stones - teeter on the floor next to the couch. Shoes left in the middle of the room; a shawl flung on the table. The clutter of hibernation. Jumbled rooms hreathe dimly in the shallow light. The dark autumn fabrics, the rugs and heavy furniture, a wall of small framed photographs, a child's lamp in the shape of a horse - all seem in defiance of the

strict world of accounting in the bank below. I'm a thief who has climbed in through a window only to find himself struck frazeo by a feeling of homecoming. The impossibility of it; the luck. I wait for Michaela to return with tea. I feel the malaise of the warm room, the peace of the immaculate snowfall. Michaelas crammed rooms have cast a spell. I'm already painted into the Rembrandt dimness.

She comes back, carrying a tray to the low living-room table; a silver pot, glasses edged in silver. Her shoes off, now wearing thick socks, she looks even younger. Now I see in Michaelas face the goodness of Beatrice de Luna, the Marrano angel of Ferrara, who reclaimed her faith and gave refuge to other exiles of the Inquisition. ... In Michaela's face, the loyalty of generations, perhaps the devotion of a hundred Kievan women for a hundred faithful husbands, countless evenings in close rooms under the sheets, discussing family problems; a thousand intimacies, dreams of foreign lands, first nights of love, nights of love after long years of marriage. In Michaela's eyes, ten generations of history, in her hair the scents of fields and pines, her cold, smooth arms carrying water from springs.... "Tea'," she asks, pushing newspapers onto

the rug, clearing a place.

From the book Fugitive Pieces by Anne
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INSIDE

John Walsh meets **Caryl Phillips**

Immigrant who moved from the margins to the centre page 3

Bruce Chatwin: The uninvolved voyeur

"He wrote beautifully but never deeply'. Books page 6

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AIR NEW ZEALAND

The 1997 Olympian Games

William Hartston found plenty to play with at the International Toy & Hobby Fair at Olympia

ast Christmas may still linger in the memory, but it is already too late for any games and toy inventors who have not yet perfected their products for Christmas 1997. The British International Toy & Hohby fair has just finished at Olympia, where retailers meet inventors and manufacturers, and plans are set for filling up toy-shop shelf space for next

A recent survey by NPD Eurotoys Consumer Panel reveals some interesting facts about our toy-buying habits:

The total value of the Traditional Toy market in Britain in the first nine months of 1996 was £662m (up 6 per cent on the previous year).

51.6 per cent of all toys were bought as Christmas presents. 78 per cent of all toys (and 88 per cent

of all dolls) are bought by women. 68.8 per cent of toys are bought for the purchaser's own child or grandchild. For every £1 spent on daughters, £1.21

is spent on sons. Children aged 4-5 have the most spent

The average amount of money spent on a single toy was £6.91.

Furthermore, according to the government's family expenditure survey, the average UK family spent £1,41 a week on toys, games and hobbies in 1993, with the Welsh spending 50 per cent more than the national average, Beneath those statistics lurks a hugely

creative industry and massive marketing expertise. With 420 exhibitors at Olympia, it is far from easy to give an overview of the exhibition as a whole, hut there seemed to be a strong emphasis on extending established concepts into new dimensions.

That has happened most literally in the world of the jigsaw, with a number of companies producing highly attractive three-dimensional jigsaw puzzles.
"Puzz3D" from Waddingtons won the "Most Innovative Toy of the Year" award with its range of jigsaw scale models of famous huildings, including the Taj Mahal, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower and a 4ft-tall Big Ben. Prices range from £14.99 to £40 and they may take

Look out for the "Eye-Popping

Portable Picture Puzzle", one of the

developments from the "Where's Wally"

books in which part of the puzzle is to

find the single image, withing a hugely

complex seene, of a single Wally figure.

shaped pieces is good value at £9.99 and

Wand for £4.90 a splendidly time-wasting

plastic stick with nivriad shapes glugging

around in a viscous liquid, but only one

Ravensburger offer everything Disney's

Lion King in 40-piece to Bruegel's Tower

with a picture of Wally on it. Find it.

shake it up, and lose it again.

For conventional jigsaws,

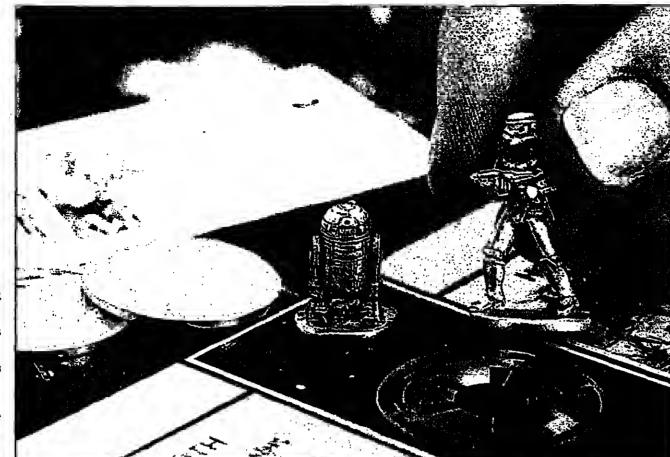
of Bahel in 4000.

This circular puzzle with originally

makes a change from conventional

jigsaws. There's also a Magical Wally

Pick of the rest of the new games



Monopoly meets Star Wars: Advance to Tatooine, if you pass Go, collect 200 credits

from eight to 40 hours to put together hetween 225 and 1500 pieces. (Available in the shops from Marcb.)

If you want something perhaps even more attractive that takes up less space, look out for "Sculpture Puzzles" from The Really Useful Games Co. These are essentially sculptures cut into thin slices that can be reassembled on a central spike. There's a cheat sheet if you just want to make the sculpture - or you can make it still more difficult by breaking up the individual slices into mini-jigsaws of their own, Look out for the Venus de Milo and Rodin's The Kiss which will appear in the shops later this month.

Another noticeable trend was the tendency to jazz up traditional games. though sometimes this is little more than repackaging for specific marketing purposes. Does "Monopoly" - still the top money-earner in the games and puzzles market - really profit by linking itself to the Star Wars anniversary celebrations? Do we really need Darth

Vader instead of an old boot, and Dagobah Swamp where Old Kent Road used to be? (Still, it looks jolly good value at only 40 credits.) Beneath all the SF gibbering, however, its still the game we know and love.

That other old favourite, Scrabble, has

spawned some more original offsboots. Head to Head Scrabble from Spears is a nice way of combining the dice from Boggle with the anagram-forming and scoring ideas of Scrabble in a two-person game. Seven dice with letters on all their faces are shunted to and fro across a track, automatically shuffling themselves as they go. Score more points and push the rack nearer your opponent; reach the end and you've won the game. For real Scrabble addicts, there are Scrabble Cards and a new Travel Scrabble Deluxe for those who cannot bear a train journey without their favourite game.

Another Scrabble derivative is Numble from Positive Games Ltd. This is one of those brilliant ideas that's so

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

simple you wonder why nobody thought of it before. It's also one of those rare games with genuine educative value that parents can play with their children. Put simply, it's Scrabble with numbers and mathematical symbols, +, -, x, + and =, instead of letters on the tiles. The objective is to make, in the usual crossword format, sums with correct answers. (On sale now at selected outlets in Norfolk; shortly to he generally available. Price around £14.95)

Finally there are the board games. You can pretend you're at the Olympics with "Games" from Worldwide Games, (simulated track and field events on an attractive board, with general sporting knowledge questions thrown in), or conduct a court case with "Libel" [the Really Useful Games Co). But the one to look out for is Snap Election (from Prowler Productions). With Sleaze cards and Banana Skins, this is just the thing for the present feverish political climate. More on this game shortly.

Word games:

Since the highly success of "Articulate" a few years ago, we have seen several games that seemed designed for hyperactive and generally inebriated PR people to shout words at each other and score points, it vou like that sort of this you'll enjoy "Thlink" ("The game of thinking by linking by lateral thinking") from Really Useful Games, where you bave to form concepts such as film or song titles from a set of cards with pictures on them that really have nothing to do with the concept at all. A good game if you like sbouting and arguing about the rules. "Of course a picture of a lion is 'Brief Encounter' - how long do you think an encounter with a lion would last?" Personally, I think I'll stick to

Games people play Pandora Melly learns about sex and Socrates

Michael Kaye, 60. chairman of M&C Saatchi

I used to relax by doing old maths papers. I got in to Cambridge to read classics, which was much casier than mathematics; now I do the brain-teasers in Another Newspaper. I used to find them too difficult when I was 23, but at 35 I grew cleverer - or they grew easier. I like it because it is a solitary pleasure. You don't have to play with people who might not be as intelligent as yourself - you can see why it annoys the rest of

my family.

They hide the supplement before I've looked at it, which puts me in a borrible mood for the whole weekend. A good Sunday is when I've finished the bloody thing before I come downstairs. My wife says we bave all suffered this for 20 years.

Most of the puzzles are mathematical. Last week's was a straightforward letters-for-digits substitution. I can't even remember the weekend hefore. Something about a hushand of 95 and a wife of 85, which I regard as a had answer. It's not very realistic, is it? "Punctuation to be ignored," as you might say in crossword parlance.

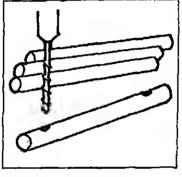
My wife gets cross because she thinks I do it to shut out the rest of bumanity. I suppose my interest in such things is an adherence to the Socratic principle which maintains that the nice thing about growing old is that you can concentrate on thinking instead of being distracted by thoughts about sex. Socrates also said that death will be the best night's sleep you'll

ever have. 1 think it's a well-established theory that people who regularly exercise their brains dun't go quite so gaga, and they seem to live longer. Bridge works well: my old Ma went on playing bridge until she was 90, which I think can be taken as reasonable proof.

Perplexity and the Crossword are available at the foot of this page. Plato's Republic' is available in the Penguin Classics series at £2.50.

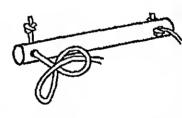
Don't junk it ... use it How to form a Platonic relationship with soap

Plato thought that the universe was kept in its state of motion by the "spindle of necessity". Here is how to turn a thick spindle, or left-over pieces of dowelling, into a soap disb that allows proper draining. All you need is dowelling, string, a hand-drill and a philosophical attitude.



Take four pieces of dowelling. or any other tubular bits of wood that may be lying around. You'll need sections of minimum length 11-12cm for a single bar of soap.

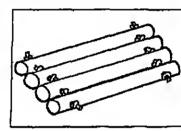
Pick a drill bit close to the diameter of the string you are going to use. Drill a hole through, each end of all the pieces.



Take two pieces of string, and thread them through the holes. If you want the completed object to last, you should use nylon or polyester - or plastic-coated string to keep it waterproof and rol-

Tie stopper knots on both sides of the hole. I always use a figureof-eight knot. This has two great advantages: first, I can remember how to tie it; secondly, I can also remember what it is called.

Thread the next dowel on to the string, push it right up to the knot and tie another stopper knot to hold it in place.



To complete, the wood may be stained and varnished. For the utmost durability, yacht varnish is to be recommended. The completed object is a waterresistant, self-draining, soap raft though (unless you use balsa wood) not buoyant enough to keep soop affoat in the bath.

Oh, and I almost forgot one extremely important piece of advice: while making this soapleast one sturdy piece of dowelling is left over at the end and stored in a safe place. You will be needing it next week when we shall be making a portable toilet-roll holder from a metal coat-hanger.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

Chess William Hartston



Overthy aggressive moves are justified only if your opponent has made a mistake. Just as a boxer must momentarily drop his guard before he throws a punch, unprovoked acts of aggression on the chessboard invite retribution - unless they are themselves the correct. way to punish the opponent for a previous error.

That's why games between top grandmasters. often tend to be on the dell side. There's nothing exciting about correctness. Even Kasparov keeps his aggressive intentions under restraint until he senses that his opponent has made a mistake. But how can you tell whether your opponent has done enough to justify your playing holdly?

Look at the diagram position, from Komarov-Razuvayev, Reggio Emilia. 1997. Black has just played a...co, which looks a little odd. When he has a nice. open diagonal from b7 to to for his bishop, why block it. The answer must be that lie has other plans for the bishop. His intention is to exploit White's

undeveloped K-side by opening lines on the other wing. He'll play a5, then exchange pawns on b4 and rooks on at. The bishop will come to ao, leaving White vulnerable on the au-i'l diagonal, the a-file and having a weak h-pawn.

White, however, clearly thought 9,...6 outrageous. So Kontarov decided to punish Black for his impudence. He continued 10.g4?? a5 11.g5 Nd5 12.Rg1?? Was such aggression

justifiable? Personally I'd

never play anything as vulgar as 10.g4 and 12.Rg1, hut perhaps that's why I was always better at drawing games than winning them. In this came. it certainly turned out well. Black must have missed the idea of 15.Rxg7+! until it was already too late. Had he seen it coming, he would probably have played 1...NeS instead of Nd5.

White: Knmarou

Here are the full moves:

| THE NUMBER | | |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| Black: Razuvayev | | |
| i Ni3 Nio | to Qg4 KhS | |
| 2 c4 co | 17 Bxf6 Rxf | |
| 3 Nc3 Bh4 | 18 Ng5 Nd7 | |
| 4 Qc2 0-0 | 19 Rxeo Rg | |
| 5 a3 Bxc3 | 20 QJ4 N7f | |
| 6 Qxe3 d5 | 21 Nt4 Nxt4 | |
| 7 h4 dxc4 | 22 Oxf-i hxa | |
| 8 Qxc4 b6 | 23 Qf3 Bg4 | |
| 9 Bb2 c6 | 24 Oxeo Rei | |
| 10 g4 a5 | 25 Qa4 Rc8 | |
| t1 g5 Nd5 | 26 Rxa3 Bxc | |
| 12 RgI axb4 | 27 Re5 Rxe. | |
| 13 Qd4 16 | 28 fxe3 Bxf1 | |
| 14 gxf6 Qxfb | 29 Kxf1 h6 | |
| t5 Rxg7 Kxg | 730 Qd4 1-0 | |
| | | |

Two-player strategy games: There is a trend away from complex strategy games - which never quite seem to establish themselves well enough to challenge chess, bridge and backgammon - towards smull-scale games that are over in a few minutes. David Westnedge Ltd offer an interesting range of wellproduced games, including Quixo - a noughts-and-crosses game with a difference. Quarto, an infuriating strategy game on a 4-by-4 board. Quads, a perplexing pattern-making game and Pylos a game of pyramid-building with hlack and white Spheres (All these are produced by the French company

All these games seem to be at just that level of difficulty at which the human kind cannot quite cope.

ACROSS

Raised (4)

Worry (7)

10 Otherwise (4)

11 Celestial (8)

12 Nick (6.7)

15 Eastern (8)

ment (7)

One of the apostles (5)

Alcoholic drink (5)

17 Glide over lightly (4)

20 Angry (5) 21 Old form of punish-

Caledonian (4)

23 Went by car (5)

concise crossword

No.3211 Saturday 1 February

The new range of tricks from Marvin's

Magic proudly claim to be the "first and only sets ever to be officially recommended by the world famous Magic Circle". And you have to promise. when buying them, that you'll never. under pain of excommunication from the Magic Circle, reveal to anyone how the tricks are done. From simple packs of doctored playing cards to huge compendiums of 250 tricks, the range offers something for all levels of expertise and expenditure. Look out for "Marvin's Magic Shop" a box of tricks in which the packaging itself transforms into a Magic Cabinet. A word of caution, however, before you decide to bemuse your family: some of the tricks need hours of practice for a really slick performance.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South

North

♠AJ8

♥654

♣J853

♠KQ1097

♦ A Q 6 4

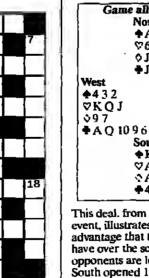
East

•65

710987

♣K72

OJ82



This deal, from a recent pairs event, illustrates the hig advantage that the "basbers" have over the scientists: the opponents are left in the dark. South opened 1 . West overcalled with 24 and North raised to 2 . After East had nassed, South could have suggested game in a variety of ways according to agreement. 3♥ — "I need help in this suit"; 3 ○ -"This is my second suit, how do you rate your hand?"; or 3♣ - a short suit trial. In real tife, South adopted what is known in the trade as the "Landy game-try"

Perplexity

"I fail to understand," said the professor, "this business about getting children to eat vegetables - I mean it's all a question of nutritional values. Just impress upon them that BEANS plus POTATO equals SPROUT, and there'll be no trouble."

If every letter in the professor's vegetables represents a different digit from 0 to 9, what is the value of SPROUT?

Sandra Landy was an aggressive but highly successful player) - he bid 1 and tried to make it. Prospects were grim when West led the ♥K and dummy appeared. East signalled dutifulty with his ten and declarer ducked. He won the heart continuation and, as there was really no genuine way to succeed, decided to put his opponents in and see if they could find a way to go wrong. It was West who had to win and, although a peaceful switch to trumps might seem automatic, decided to switch to the 09. Do you see what I mean about giving them the chance to

go wrong?
The diamond switch went to the jack, king and ace and, after crossing to dummy with a trump, declarer led \$8. Rather gloomily. East covered with the ten and the vital seven fell under the queen.

You can see the rest: declarer drew trumps in two more rounds, ending in dummy, and was able to lead 0 2 for a successful finesse of the four against East's five. It was hardly surprising that the game in spades was not made at many tables.

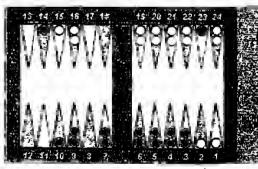
The first correct answer opened

on 12 February will win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary. Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

18 February answers: Chris Evans (crave shins); Kenny Dalglish (lanky shingled); Slobodan Milosevic (colossal mid-bovine). Winner: Catherine Fearnhead.

Backgammon Chris Bray

The games page is edited by William Hartston



This was problem 3 in the Christmas quiz. Black to play 3-3. Should he play: (a) 7/1(2)* (b) 14/5, 10/7 (c) 5/2(2)*, 4/1(2)* (d) t4/2*

This is a difficult one. Black's plan is to escape the back man while extending his own 5-point prime to a full ti-point prime. The first part of the plan is more important. Note that the doubling cube is with White which means that Black cannot win the game by doubling White out. White is in it to the end, whatever happens. When you have already doubled it is normally correct to be slightly more aggressive than usual to compensate for the lack of the cube. This position is no exception. So we can eliminate play (b) which picks up both of Black's loose blots. hui does little else to make progress

One of the hitting plays is indicated, but which one? Play (d) is the pure play, keeping the 5-point prime and trying to extend it to the full 6-point prime. It's fine when it works, but when White hits the blot on the 2-point things can go wrong quickly. White's 5-point board is enough to make this play too risky. Play (a) is immediately safe (other than White entering with a double-2). However, if White enters and anchors with a 2 then Black still has a lot of work to do to win the game. It's good, hut not the best.

This brings us to the apparently anti-positional play (c). This gives up the prime but has the huge advantage of putting two men on the bar, giving Black the precious time he needs to escape his back man. The other advantage of this play which is not immediately obvious is that Black will win many. more gammons than with the other plays. These two factors combine to make this the best play by quite a long way. This is confirmed both by manual roll-outs and the roll-out feature of Jellyfish, the world's best backgammon program.

TURN TO PAGE 25... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damion Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst



DOWN

Sunshade (7)

Accurate (4)

Approved formally (6-

S American country (7)

Scottish town (5)

6 Sword (4) 7 Coloured pencil (6) 12 Irrational fear (6)

16 Biblical patriarch (5)

13 Nunnery (7)

14 Irritating (7)

19 As well (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Brougham, 5 Styx (Broomsticks), 9 Papaw, 10 Tsari-

na. 11 Inscribing. 14 Mother-of-pearl, 16 Depreciate, 20 Grown-up. 21 Loofa, 22 Duty. 23 Dynamite, DOWN: 1 Baptisms, 2 Opposite, 3 Gower, 4 Autobiography, 6 Twig, 7 X-ray, 8 Catnap, 12 Macaroni, 13 Alienate, 15 Exeunt, 17 Celia, 18 Aged, 19 Fort.

18 Irish county (4)

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THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 1997

Songmaster of the diaspora



RICHARD LEVER WEEK

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John Walsh meets Caryl Phillips

transit. He seems to exist in a state of chronic flight and restless travel. He spent Christmas cruising the Caribbean researchbook, Atlantic Sound, about the 18thcentury slave trade. Earlier, he was in Singapore chairing something for the British Council. He talks with animation about his recent trip to the Amazon withthe poet Glyn Maxwell. He flew in from New York to Holland last week, to see his Dutch publishers, and landed in London on Monday, to perform the publicity dance routine for his new novel The Nature of Blood:

Becalmed briefly in the bar at the Russell Hotel, round the corner from his publishers, Faber & Faber, be extends a languid hand to his glass of indifferent Côtes de Roussillon. He is a very cool operator, dramatically dressed from collar to the in layers of dark black, if there is such a thing. His shirt collar is buttoned to the neck but tieless in the best Versace style. His hair is cropped like a professorial specs be once wore. Now that he is a professor - of English and Creative Writing at Amherst College, Massachussetts - he looks like a model for Paul Smith tailoring. It is no wonder be has an awesome reputation as a boudoir swordsman. The only false note is struck by his accent, which remains flatly and defiantly stuck in Yorkshire, in all its Geoffrey Boycott splendour.

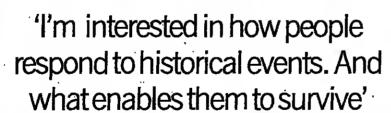
themes are displacement, diaspora, the quality of being a stranger, the unfamiliarity of the concept of home. Although his writing career began in the millpond of naturalism, with The Final Passage (1985), an autobiographical account of his parents' emigration from the West Indes master of the diaspora. With Cambridge carried it on to the Booker shortlist. Now comes The Nature of Blood, in which Phillips forsakes his chosen territory of black deracination, and chooses instead to write about the Jews.

aryl Phillips is a soul in there are so many revisionist historians around -so many arseholes - claiming the Holocaust was a fiction, that to write fiction about it is playing into their hands."

But why was be taking on the subject at all? What was he doing writing about ing locations for his next death camps and gas chambers? He ic Sound, about the 18th-smiled at such PC fastidiousness. "I get a lot of those questions from audiences in Canada and America, But I just don't believe in what the Americans call 'cultural appropriation'. My response to it is rather aloof and snotty. I just say, Where do we stop? Do we tell Thomas Hardy be shouldn't write about Tess because he's a bloke? Or tell William Styron he shouldn't write The Confessions of Nat Turner because be isn't a slave?"

The Nature of Blood is bound to provoke raised eyebrows, raised hackles and a lot of bewilderment. It tells, in parallel and criss-crossing narratives, the stories of Eva, a young Jewish girl in an unnamed European country, as the noose of Nazi threat gradually tightens round her every day; of the Jews of 15th-century Portobuffole, near Venice, an apparently assimilated community of races where the disrance of a young boy is barbarically punished behind a veneer of logic, legality and common propriety; of the great Othello, Shakespeare's black Moorisb soldier who commands the Venetian army and courts the lovely Desdemona; of a straggle of Zionist Europeans camped under British arms in Cyprus, dreaming of Palestine; and of other, unintegrated voices. Phillips's intention is clear enough - to suggest links between the barbarities

that was my life. It just bappened that I was able to see those elements in the life of a 30-year-old white middle-class spinster". And the correspondences hadn't occurred to him while he was writing the book? "I'd no idea," be said, disingenuously. "I'm never conscious of what I'm doing when I'm writing. I just focus on getting the language and the characteri-



of different eras - hut there's a perfunctory quality about the Euro-Jewish sections, and a wildly expressionistic treatment of the final horrors of the camps that seems an ill-judged literary exercise. Phillips himself talks a lot about "thematic structures" and "character bridges" but concedes: "It's all about how somebody wakes up one morning to find their world has been turned completely upside down, for reasons that are out of their control. I'm interested in how people respond to historical events - whether it's to do with religion or political instability or economic migration - that arrive to screw them up. And what enables them to survive."

For an accomplished writer, Phillips can seem oddly naïve about the motivation behind his writing. He claims that the Victorian spinster in Cambridge, for instance. the voice of the sceptical Enghish establishment inspecting an outpost of empire, apparently changed her whole essence in hindsight. "I couldn't tell at the time why this woman's voice started taking over the novel," Phillips said. "It was only a year later that I realised. When I was writing it, I was 30, the same age as

Phillips's identification with his characters suggests a vastly solipsistic nature. As you talk to this guarded, proud, stubbornly self-made and self-motivating man (you can see how it was that Michael Grade could hand over £2.7m to him to co-produce a TV film of The Final Passage, and how Peter Hall could have heen persuaded to direct it), it seems, for a moment, quite in order that he should put large historical concerns at the service of his own personal obsessions. Take the genesis of The Nature of Blood: "I'm perfectly conscious of what my relationship with the Holocaust is," said Phillips. "It was the first story I wrote, at 14 or 15. I came home from school one day and watched The World at War on television. The series had just reached the concentration camps, and I can remember being terribly shocked and I also remember the clean impulse to write a story. I wrote about a little Dotch hoy, who couldn't understand why his parents made him wear a yellow star, when he felt be was the same as other kids. Then he and his parents

star on his shirt, a farmer sees the reflec- Richard (Name Son) Wright. The expetion and comes and saves him. So paradoxically, he's saved by the very thing

that makes him a victim.

"Well the impulse behind that is, of course, that I was the kid - the kid at school who felt different, the only black kid in the class, with that horror that you could be ostracised just like that. One day, you're playing football with friends, the next day, something would happen and you'd be sbunned. Or people would tell racist jokes and you couldn't understand how exactly to orientate yourself. I felt an affinity to this horror - not the larger one of the gas chambers, obviously, but the smaller borror of what it'd be like for the kid to feel the rug pulled from beneath

Phillips was born on St Kitts in the Caribheao in 1958. When he was four months old, his parents emigrated to England, part of the mass recruiting of West Indians as British citizens to help alleviate the post-war lahour shortage. The family fetched up in Leeds, and the young Phillips set ahout turning into a working-class Northern kid.

"It was a horrible white working-class council estate," he recalls, "and we were the only hlack family on it. Basically, you learned to do two things - fight and run. The first thing people did to you at school was to come up and say, 'Oi you, nigger', and if you didn't whack them in the face, you were fucked. It sounds very crude, but you just had to."

This induction into Hard Knocks College was accompanied by a gradual recognition that the canon of available literature didn't seem to have much to do with him. "I used to buy books that told me about me, so I'd read John Braine and David Storey. It was only when I was older that I realised I wasn't only a northern working-class kid, I was a hlack northern working-class kid. I had to look for books that would tell me about the other side are rounded up in cattle trucks, they're of me that wasn't satisfied by reading

rience of poor Stateside blacks in New York and the higoted South had little relevance for the Leeds scholar, but as Phillips eloquently puts it: "You saw yourself in the prism of what you could find. I knew there was going to have to be a new literature, a synthesis of being black and being British."

o he proceeded to supply it. In barely three years, he produced three novels, a brace of plays and a slightly paranoid study of Continental racism entitled The European Tribe. This burst of energy left him, however, with an emptiness that prompted a long-delayed search for a home.

"There's a point at which you have to decide why you're writing. For certain writers, ambition takes you a certain way, through your first couple of books, and then it becomes just the thing you do. I felt I had a bee in my bonnet about something. I had to find out what my subject was." To this end, he decided to leave the glamorous metropolis at the height of his fame, and embrace his island background. "It was the time to spend some time in the Caribbean, trying to figure out what the hell I was doing. I felt I'd been writing out of an energy pack that was all ambition and

cunningly-disguised autobiography."

The St Kitts bigwigs were proud to have their home-grown published novelist back in town; everyone else left him alone with his clearly absurd delusions of genius. "I was regarded with great detachment." he said. "It was a little different from the Groucho Club..."

From it emerged Cambridge and all that followed - a trilogy of works passionately (but so detachedly passionate) looking for links between Africa, the old these voyages the reader's own. "Yeah of once more.

the woman. She'd grown up feeling an on their way to the camp, and the boy Room at the Top." He turned, by neces- course there's a continuity between the outsider, feeling valueless, and had to jumps out, banging his head as he falls. sity, to American literature and the thriving three books," says Phillips. "They're all make a self-defining journey across the He lies there, unconscious, bleeding to ing black radical tradition of James Bald-to do with journeys. It's the way my life to do with journeys. It's the way my life win. Ralph (Invisible Man) Ellison and reflects the nature of my concerns."

> Hardly drawing breath from arguing with the Jewish lobby over The Nature of Blood, Phillips is also about to publish Extravagant Strangers, an anthology of pieces by British authors born outside the UK. It's been called A Literature of Belonging (a subtitle to wreach the heartstrings) because of its implicit search by writers to find a home, or at least a cultural accommodation, with the United Kingdom, just as Phillips's parents did in 1958; just as he himself does with his books. "I've never had a problem about 'joining in' with English literature, once I perceived that Eng Lit has a strong traditioo of being reinvigorated by outsiders," he says. So did he mind being thought a "post-colonial" writer, a black writer, a Caribbean writer, an English

writer? Which? "As a writer you can't do a damn thing about the categories people put you in. Do I look for VS Naipaul under 'Colonial Literature'? Do I look for Salmao Rushdie under Indian and Pakistani Literature"? I don't know, and I don't bother." As an academic, it's beyond question that writing in English in the last 20 years had been massively influenced by what they call "the margins" - the old colonies, the Commonwealth, the Empire, India, Australia. But when you look at people like Michael Ondaatje, the Dutch / Sri Lankan extraction author of The English Patient, or Peter Carey, the Australian author of Oscar and Lucinda, or Derek Walcott, the St Lucian Nobel poet, they don't live in the margins any more. They live in the centre now. Ondaatje in Toronto. Carey and Walcott

"It's not that the centre has co-opted the margins. It's that the margins have made it to the centre." With that, the voice of the marginal, the dispossessed world of Europe and the new world of the and the home-foriorn seized his black Americas, and inventing voices that make coat and set off on his restless travels

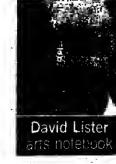
The election approaches and with it three slim volumes from Penguin. each espousing the cause of the major parties. To be published on 17 February, Why Vote Labour? ditto Conservative and ditto Lib Dem they all have the backing of the party leaders. I opened my advance copies with a irisson of anticipation as to how the cultural policies of the parties would differ. My first evening is spent

curled up in bed with David

Conservative case. I waded

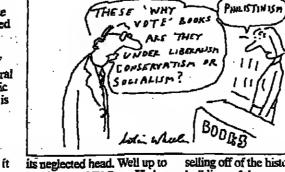
through such predictable

Willetts MP and the



chapter headings as "The Free Market", "Schools: Choice or Uniformity" and the artily inverted "Order and Law". But of art itself, no mention. Typically Tory, I sighed. For all Mrs Bottomley's fine words, a cultural cop-out.

by Tony Blair as "a route map for New Labour". A section on "A Civic Vision" about fundamentals. From health to welfare, jobs to education, crime to the constitution." The artistic fundamentals do not make it into the 111-page statement. And so to the Lib Dems and Lord Wallace of Saltaire.



a point, Lord Wallace. He has a bee in his bonnet. But it's not a bee one generally bears when two or more theatregoers are gathered Here at last culture must rear Dems regard the piecemeal

selling off of the historie buildings of the crown estate in Whitehall... as beyond reasonable justification." So there it is. The actual manifestos are yet to come.

But the three intellectual

treatises contain effectively

nothing about the arts. Sir Richard Eyre, director of the National Theatre, opined recently that the parties seem to view the arts as a fourletter word. Worse, it is a word that has not even entered their vocabulary.

Suzanne Vega, American chantense, said this week that her new album Nine Objects of Desire had caused some friction between herself and her husband, record producer Mitchell Froom. Aside from his complaining, with reference to her honeymoon song, that he would have preferred the sery songs to be about him

someooe else, there were also arguments when he demanded to know what certain of her more enigmatic compositions were actually about. Suzanne Vega explains: "I mean, as my husband I suppose he has a right to know, but as my producer he really doesn't." Shouldn't that be the other way around.

and the funny noes about

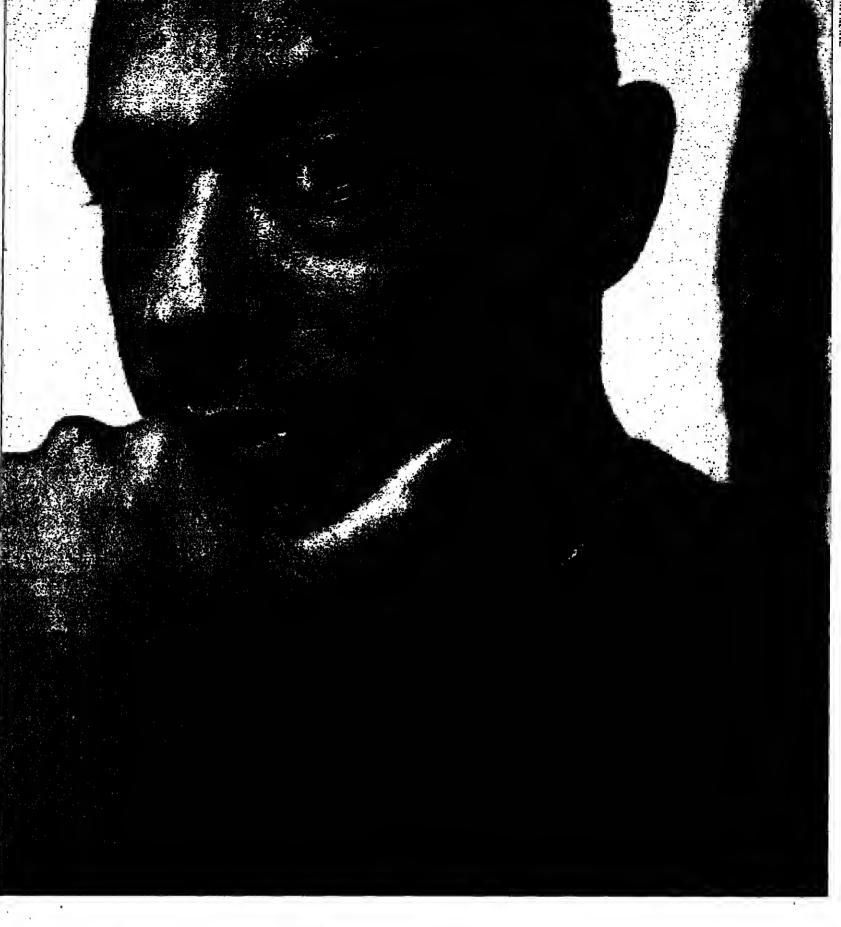
Next Wednesday at the Royal Festival Hall the BBC Symphony Orchestra performs the world premiere of Diana Burrell's new work Symphonies of Flocks, Herds and Shoals. Reflecting her

promises musical references to birdsong, the herd instincts of animals, and even "the darting movements of fishes". I asked Diana Burrell how sho conveys a flock of birds in flight in orchestral terms. She did not even pause for breath. "Flocks - music of brightness and clarity. Air. Intellect. Complex patterns. Wheeling, Circling, Covering large distances, Fast. glittering scherzo." Perhaps with a touch of engine-noise vibrato for the sponsor -Land Rover.

passion for the sights and

the 49-year-old composer

sounds of the natural world.



All his whizzing around the globe is quite appropriate for a writer whose big

to England in the late Fifties, he gradually outgrew the image of the bookish immigrant and hecame instead the song-(1991) he delved into the past and filled it with voices: principally those of a spinsterish Victorian governess travelling to a Caribbean plantation, and of Cambridge, the slave who becomes an English gentleman before reverting to slavery at the hands of Fate, pirates and history. It was a dazzling act of historical reclamation, trumped by Crossing the River (1993), an epic lament for the children of slavery, which crosses continents and generations to tell how the lost hlacks turned up in obscure corners of Western history over two centuries. The quality of the writing - the haunted, floating voices from an unknown oral history

"Yeah, I know, writing fiction about the Holocaust is a minefield," he said, "not because I happen not to be Jewish, but because of the subject itself. Cynthia Oziek wrote a marvellous essay saying

> Next I turned to Labour and Tony Wright MP, whose writings have been described must surely include a cultural vision. But Mr Wright's civic vision is that "this election is

A chapter entitled "The Quality of Our Society" causes the heart to skip a beat. together. He writes: "Lib

arts & books

Putting the 'um' into millennium

As 'The X-Files' so relentlessly tell us, the truth is out there, banging on the door to the next century and pointing at the hand of God. John Lyttle takes a Manichean view of BSkyB's latest Zeitgeist-buster

he metaphysical serial killer smash Millennium arrived on BSkyB on a tidal wave of hard sell (so expensive ITV and Sky split the cost) and hype (so shocking it had to be transmitted at 10 o'clock) and saddled with a tag line ready to backfire: From the makers of The X-Files . So it seemed wise to let high expectations fall to earth, especially as the series also boasted of "pushing the TV envehipe" – though if "pushing the TV envelope" means showing things never before seen on the box, the boast is amply fulfilled: bodies are microwaved, lips sewn together, corpses defecated upon, walls soaked in blood. Then again, one backed further off because BSkyB seemed to be not just inviting, but virtually begging for odious comparisons by scheduling producer, wunderkind and cultural impresario Chris Carter's latest trawl through the shadowy recesses of the zeitgeist directly after The X-Files, hoping not only to hold on to its predecessor's audience share, but also to clone its offbeat, but fanatical follow-

ing. A high-risk strategy. Reputations have been ruined that way. So, nearly two months on, what do we have? Well, something shrewd, mostly nasty, not to say morally dubious, and perhaps even (if the word still holds any resonance) reactionary; a truth that flies in the face of The X-Files' hard-core anti-establishment raison d'être, but nevertheless a truth that is "out there", albeit camouflaged by Chris ("I love to steal") Carter's strategic steals from every cool pop contemplation of, oh dear, "good v evil" of the last few years. Not to worry; what ought to play as drained and strained, instead seems triumphantly conclusive - or as conclusive as the casually post-modern gets, as if all nf the new show's genre models were scattered pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, patiently waiting to be put together so that the public could marvel at the larger picture: The Millennium - the year 2000 and the second coming of Christ, when all the saints come marching in to rout the Beast and end the 1.000-year rule of Satan unbound.

To wit: ex-FBI Frank Black (Lance Henriksen), cursed with

the talent, and torment, of seeing the world through madmen's eyes, is a brazen replicant of Will, the ex-FBI agent of Thomas Harris's thriller Red Drugon, later the Michael Mann movie, Manlumer. The pilot episode's gimmick of live burial haits from The Limishing, Blue Liber, of course, lends the ear (amputated) plus crawling insect that adorns the second programme. The casting of Terry O'Quinn as sometime sidekick conjures his mass-nturdering Stepfather. The kidnapping in the third show nods to The Silence of the Lambs, which itself took its MO from Ted Bundy (the first-hand borrowing in the name of verisimilitude made the skin crawl, so imagine how a second-hand-me-down makes even the most blase voyeur feel). And then there's... SeTen.

The unlucky number behind David Fincher's oppressive movie mosterclass in the ways and means of Old Testament retribution hangs out everywhere, and gets into everything. It lends
Millernium its grungy palette - Carter quietly hired Gary Wissner, Se en's art director – is strip-mined for its atmosphere Iguilty, jaded, cosmically pained), and raided for its jittery, sub-Super 8 opening credits, right down to the stray, nonsensical/ meaningful words - Wait/Worry/Who Cares?. If The X-Files are chiefly pulp and mond pieces, then Millennium is a stah at a tone-poem - and insistently poetic. The series is encrusted in literary quotes, from Yeats - yes, "the centre cannot hold" - to the sundry religious verses that introduce each episode: "I have no rest, for trouble comes". With success, Carter has discovered, as many have, that swank can be married to sensationalism, and, moreover, that he has something to say - or, to he precise, lip-synch. For, above all, Se7en's title is taken - and taken literally. As literally as fundamentalists take the Bible, Selen referring, of course, to the statutory complement of deadly sins. Millerminn too, in its magisterial manner, knows that right is might, and who is in the wrong. Not just the killers, but those others who protest that grey is indeed the universe's colour scheme, those souls - see the misled, sacrificial cult members of episode three - who, in their weakness, have created the decayed canditions that grant our deepest fears flesh.



Not that our hero's immediate environment is dark. It's only his name that is Black - the single sulphurous whiff of ambiguity that Carter, the hip king of conspiracy, confusion and uncertainty, allows bimself - if one discounts the casting of Henriksen himself (the rich sociopath whoonce hunted humans for fun in Hard Target). Otherwise, all's light with Black's world, a-golden, heavenly light, a nimbus around the hluntly iconogolden, heavenly light, a nimbus around the fiturity techno-graphic clapperboard home which, when not solving cases by simply having intuitive flashes (shown, aptly enough, in Manichean black and white), he shares with wife Catherine (Megan Callagher) and their darling daughter. Though a stalker may have been positioned in the wings, hearth and bome offer refuge; Se7en reigns supreme here, too. Callagher, unlike Se7en's Gwyneth Paltrow, hasn't lost her head (yet), but like Paltrow, she's endlessiv supportive of her recessive male, less mere mortal, more pure abstraction. Sheer goodness, possibly, just as the Blacks' daughter is Innocence Incarnate. The happy family circle is also the magic circle, the solitary safe place – a notion Millennium idealises to near-parody, despite The X-Files' weekly warning that nowhere – no one in tenfor. weekly warning that nowhere - no one - is "safe". Arbitrary forces are at work, and barely bothering to hide. Hence The X-Files' drolly accurate reflection of the suburbs and small towns as magnets for weirdness, replete with cannibals, devil-wor-shippers, Republicans and incestuous mutants ready to beat your shippers, Republicans and incestuous mutants ready to teat your hrains out with haseball bats while Johnny Mathis croons "Chances Are". Millennium may be a word that evokes a fast-approaching future, but the show is always gazing longingly back to a faked Middle America that never existed, save as propaganda. Remember Ronald Regan's "It's Morning in America" re-election campaign, similarly larded with understanding wives, obedient children and the prospect of school prayers?

Millennium is ill at ease with anything, and anyone, outside those inflexible confines; God, Mom and Apple Pie. For its stunningly basic dichotomy to hold - this good, that bad - the "alien" must be expelled. The X-Files tends to love the alien, or at least to allow it a common humanity, Millennium, by contrast, presents victims who are as characterless as the killers; two sides of the same base coin. The unknowableness of the patbological mind is sbared by, say, prostitutes (decapitated, but already faceless) and homosexuals - "outsiders" whom Millennium turns into outcasts. The "exceptionals" whom Mulder would communicate with, and Scully be polite to. Millennium treats as mears, when a police chief remarks that, in all his years on the force, he has never seen anything as terrifying as the entombed gay man with stitched-up eyes and mouth he saw tonight. Black intones, "Then you've never seen your child in hospital". The fact that there's a difference between concussion and mutilation should be self-evident, or, at least, not weighed. Here, it is, a cruelty that even NBC's plodding Profiler is at pains to avoid; but then, the Profiler herself is a single woman and mother, and inured to a vulnerability (a separateness) that Millennium can only discuss in strictly forensic terms, forgetting that the deity it hunts for is supposed to love us all with equal ardour.

Not that Millennium would deign to entertain the thought. Doubt is given no houseroom bere. Watching the show immediately after The X-Files is like watching a conversation between two sides of a split personality. Could it be that Chris Carter got tired of asking questions of a universe that didn't return his calls, so be decided to supply his own? Why not? Answers are as part and parcel of Pre-Millennium Tension as the wbo, what and whys, though inevitably less interesting. Questions are by their nature complex, while answers (in TV terms at least) must be simple. Answers have to leave out something, and it transpires that that something is the unavoidable mess, scrabble and compromise that we make of our lives, not knowing, as Millennium knows, that this is the door the Devil and his disciples saunter through. Millennium knows who forgot to fasten the lock, and, when you stop to think about it, so do you. It is,

dear reader, the audience. It is, dear reader, most probably you.

'Millennium': Sundays 10pm BSkyB, Sky 1

A silvermine brings misery

Many film-makers have ventured into the heart of Joseph Conrad's dense narratives. But most come back empty-handed. As adaptations of 'Nostromo' and 'The Secret Agent' loom large, Steven Poole explains why Jo can never be the new Jane

the silver seam of Jane Austen is all but exhausted for the worthy tion." Ridley Scort's first feature. The miners in film and television. Casting her lifeless busk aside. new candidate being a gloomy seafaring Pote, who wrote in his third language. English, and who more or less invented the rog-pulling prismatism of the modern novel. But Joseph Conrad, who died in 1924, is our man.

Conrad's work divides roughly into two hakes. Between 1899 and 1911 was his "great" period, encompassing Heart of Darkness, Lord Jim, Nostromo, The Secret Agent and Under Western Eyes, After comproblems, suffered a nervous breakdown. Then came (hance 11914), a soi-disant "romanee", which despite its extraordinarily knotty architecture become a massive commercial success. Although The Shadow-Line (1917) is indispensable, most of Contad's other work after Chinee seemed a weary recapitulation of old themes. Contact settled comfortably into his role as elder statesman of literature (although he refused a knighthood). Perhaps because this later work is less shockingly new, it has generally been the easier. option for Hollywood movie screenwriters than the "great" work. Nearly 90 films have been made of Conrad's tales, but only a handful are worth watching.

Dr Alan Simmons, editor of The Conredian magazine and contributor to a new volume. Consider Film, to be published. by Cambridge University Press at the end interesting celluloid Conrads. One of lations of foreign prose or poetry. the problems facing a screenwriter. Simmons believes, is that: "If you try to remain rigidly faithful, you sometimes

Linellists, adapted from Conrad's short story "A Point of Honour", suffered from they wonder, squinting, who will now sat- this literalness; full of lovingly researched isty the insatiable public appetite for pictorial detail, it yet leaves the viewer period drama. You would not her on the cold. [Scott, a man of literary taste, also paid homage to Contad in the far superior Alien, where the spaceship is named Nostromo.) Alfred Hitchcock's freet version of The Secret Agent, entitled Sabotage, is tight and racy, although Hitch later thought he had broken the rules of suspense by leiting the bomh go off. Terence Young's The Rover, and An Outcast of the Islands starring Trevor Howard, are both "remarkably faithful", says Simmons; there is also David Lean's ploddingly pleting the last. Conrad, beset by money heautiful Lord Jim, with Peter O'Toole in reprise of his Lawrence of Arabia turn.

Why are most such valiant efforts somehow anaemic, flat? The answer may be this. Conrad famously expends much of his prose on telling the reader what things are not: Heart of Darkness, for instance, is studded with negative definitions like "implacable", "impenetrable", "invisible" and so furth. Cinema, on the other hand, embodies an energetic positivism of the image: you can only show what things are. Moreover, a cinematic image is almost inevitably encrusted with superabundant detail, which will dilute the force of those key moments where Conrad deliberately constructs a symbolic picture for the reader. The tension between these two modes of representation, the ironic and the mimetic, is obvious, and herein lies the danger for literalby Cambridge University Press at the end of the year, is happy to discuss the more to that evoked by slavishly "literal" trans-

Another problem is that Conrad's



tempestuous, rhotorical arguments about ideas of fidelity, truth and death. Now, cinema is these days less equipped or willing than ever to deal in metaphysics (allhough it would be amusing to watch Quentin Tarantino grapple with Sartre's L'Eire et le Néant), and if you ditch Conrad's metaphysics, you're throwing the baby out with the hathwater.

One of the hest Conrad-inspired films, Apocalypse New, gets round this problem with elan. Updating the action of Heart of Durkness to Vietnam, with helicopter gunships and machine guns. Coppola (with co-writer John Milius) takes Conrad's central metaphysical notion of work as an essential "illusion" that preserves man's sanity by distracting him from the "abyss" of reality, and replaces it with what replaced metaphysics in the late 1960s; rock music and LSD.

genius owes so much to an alchemic The contrast is salient with Nicholas Heart of Darkness. It was to bave been his fusion of melodrama and metaphysics: Roeg's dully "straight" cahle-TV version first picture with RKO, and Welles, that

of Heart of Darkness. It stars an excellent Tim Roth as the narrator and non-hero. Marlow, and an infuriatingly fey John Malkovich as Kurtz (playing a character renowned for his powerfully charismatic voice. Malkovich settles on a lisping. sing-song delivery, which is even less appropriate than Marlon Brando's guring whisper in Apocalypse Now). The first shots are the best; slow, tracking close-ups over the hieroglyphically wrinkled grey hide of an elephant. With this opening sequence at least. Roeg manages to suggest Marlow's youthful fascination with maps of Africa and the fateful link with the ivory trade, as well as the ancient atavism of the jungle. But for the sort of technical cinematic innovation that could conceivably have complemented Conrad's hrilliance, the greatest adaptation never made is undoubtedly Orson Welles's

master of ventriloquy, planned to shoot it entirely from Marlow's point of view. Unfortunately, the extreme expense involved in long takes with the "subjective camera". and the number of extras

required, saw the project aborted, and the world had to make do with Citizen Kane. Now Conrad's greatest work. Nostromo (1904), is coming to the small screen, thanks to the BBC (who contributed half the £9m cost) and an international conginmerate headed by Fernando Ghia, co-producer of The Mission. This political epic, centring on a silver mine in a fictional South American dictatorship beset by revolution, has been squeezed into four beautifully shot, increasingly gripping 90-minute episodes by the heroic efforts of screenwriter John Hale. Happily this lush Nostromo's successes are more numerous than its faults (the greatest of which is the atrocious performance of Ruth Gabriel as Antonia). Colin Firth (buttoned-up English mineowner). Serena Scott Thomas (radiant, neglected wife) and Albert Finney (fruitily crumpled Irish doctor) are all excellent. The Italian actor Claudio Amendola in the title role disappoints at first, hut grows

ever more sweatily convincing.

Especially noteworthy is Ennio Morricone's music. Conrad once professed an artistic debt to the music of Richard Wag. ner. Fittingly, therefore, Morricone harks back to his spaghetti western scores by building his soundtrack around a repeated three-note Wagnerian leitmotif for Nostromo himself, played on an Andean wooden flute and echoing the name "Nostromo" in its rhythm. It is a perfect transference to the screen of Conrad's verbal technique - when Nostromo is mentioned in the novel, it is almost always with such repetitive epithets as "the incorruptible" or "the magnificent".

Hale's script does not exactly offer any-new technical solutions. He has rewired Conrad's time-bending patchwork of wide angle history and microscopic anthropology into a straightforward narrative. This is the big concession. It is impossible to imagine a television audience coping with Conrad's baffling shifts of perspective, yet the novel's stark, ironising force owed everything to that form. The point is that Conrad is working to question his characters' complacent, myopic view of history as linear progress. Yet the television version cannot help but endorse this linearity. With this inevitable compromise in mind, it is heartening to see how well Hale manages to dramatise the story's politics, without resorting to that screenwriter's index of desperation, the voiceover. This is challenging and courageous television, and should not be judged a failure if ratings are disappointing, for some viewers just will

not have the patience. Conrad, you see, is emphatically not the new Jane. The adaptor and screenwriter Christopher Hampton, whose film of The Secret Agent comes out in June, explains laconically: "He offers no consolation. He's just too – corrugated." But Nostromo has a persuasive claim to be considered the greatest novel of this century (pace the Waterstone's list). And while the coming spate of Conrad films (including Mark Peploe's Victory and Beeban Kidron's Anny Foster) will provoke a secret jealousy in those who cherish this under read writer and want to keep him to themselves, there is no doubting their audacity. Conrad compared writing fiction to arescue work carried out in darkness". It is hard to shake the feeling that, when the him people come along and flick on the searchlights, something scuttles away to brood

ires.

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alone in the shadows. 'Nostromo' starts today 9.30pm BBC2

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frank, no longer compulsory viewing, and people bave been whispering that perhaps the last rites should be read to improvisation. It has taken a man with high heels and bright red lipstick to give it the kiss of life again. To his army of camp followers, Eddie Izzard has that sort of power; he can even make a lurid pair of green PVC trousers look cool, for goodness sake, One Word Improv is not a one-man show - alongside Izzard, Neil Mullarkey, Suki Webster and Stephen Frost improvise sketches based on one word provided by the audience - but you sense

Hold on, let's try that again With the aid of three assistants, Eddie Izzard gives the ailing art of

improvisation some eclectic-shock treatment. By James Rampton



hose Line Is It Anyway? is, to be after all, features many notable routines where he acts out several roles on his own - remember the mina birds in an aeroplane? - and this week he has talked about having to stop himself taking over in One Word Improv. It is the perfect stage for him, giving free rein to the most surreal imagination this side of the Dadaists. This is a man who has confessed in the past to

his love of "talking bollocks". The improvisational fizz certainly goes a bit flat when Izzard is not taking part; you find your eyes drawn to the bar-stools at the side of the stage when be is perched there. At one stage on word provided by the audience – but you sense that it almost could be. Izzard's stand-up show, stage-side microphone as if to interrupt the centhat it almost could be. Izzard's stand-up show,

tre-stage proceedings and heads visibly swivelled in anticipation. Even when he runs out of steam, he raises laughs; at one point, he ground to a halt mid-ramble and admitted to great acclaim: Tve no idea what I'm talking about,"

He also has the authority to wade in and put stop to a sketch that's losing the plot (although that is often the charm of improv). After an inspired riff as King Arthur wielding an Excalibur-like chainsaw, Izzard dasbed on in the middle of the next, rather flagging improvisation and decapitated the others'

Such is his mesmeric hold on the audience

icant line - such as "you're going to borstal" to ever bigger laughs. He is also able to gang up naughtily with them against his fellow performers. When Frost as a bunchback-inspector came to visit Izzard's Quasimodo and told a string of weak gags, Izzard ran to the front of the stage and shouted: "People of Paris, a wanker has come to inspect me." Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley were spotted in the star-studded audience on Thursday. Like the rest of us, they were no doubt cooing to each other that, tbanks to a man in fashion-victim trousers, One Word Improv is ab fab.

cabaret

Nick Kimberley listens to Ute Lemper, the Berlin spice girl

ven if we've neither read Christopher . Isherwood, nor seen Liza Minnelli in that film. the words "Berlin Cabaret" conjure up a flickering parade of images that. blurring and fading as we try to bring them into focus, nevertheless seem to embody an era. Ute Lemper exploits this false nostalgia in her publicity, but fortunately there's more to her talent than a fleeting resemblance to chanteuses past.

She's a thoroughly

modern microphone singer, using the voice in ways that only the mike allows us to appreciate. The Queen Elizaheth Hall may not be eclu kabarettisch hut it's small enough to bring her and us close together, surely right for a programme of "Berlin Cabarct Songs". That's also the title of Lemper's latest CD, but this was more than merc promotion. The songs have been arranged by Rohert Ziegler, whose Matrix Ensemble (here, a brassy septet) provided Lemper's accompaniment. Ziegler, like Lemper, remains faithful to the Zeitgeist witbout necessarily striving for period instrument authenticity. That would, in any case, be hard to achieve, as much of the work of composers such as Spoliansky and Hollaender survives only in fragments.

Although spirited, Lemper's CD performances of this material are, if not subdued, then certainly contained. If she can see the whites of her audience's eyes, she opens up, snarling, pouting, lisping and rasping with infectious glee. She sits pertly on a stool or prowls the stage, squats at its edge, descends into the audience to inflict excruciating embarrassment on those lucky or unlucky enough to attract her attention. She is, in a word, a performer,

surviving on the adrenalin of communication.

That's one reason why she chose to sing many of these songs in Jeremy Lawrence's highly spiced translations. Some will question their authenticity, but an art-form as voracious as Weimar cabaret must itself have made free with the good tunes of the day. And if something is lost in translation, something is also gained: as Lemper said, "It's fun to be understood." To insist on singing them in German would be to varnish them in protective sepia, and as she also suggested. "These issues are still

delicate to touch." What remains delicate is the songs' willingness to talk about sex, money and corruption with an uncomplicated wit, which Lemper clearly relishes. sometimes perhaps to excess, so that occasionally we might wish she would sing the songs straight, un-lemperised. Was the lisp on "thex" in "Sex-Appeal" rather overdone? Was she too willing to pull this or that song out of shape for the sake of a passing inflection? And then again a nasal quality in the voice. which the mike emphasises, engenders a crooning tone that is sometimes intrusive.

Still, it's an immensely cbaracterful and flexible voice, precisely the kind of voice contemporary composers might usefully exploit. Her trips to her country's past are vibrant and valuable, but Lemper is a modern performer, and music that's a little more modern should fit her comfortably. So far only Michael Nyman bas taken advantage: why aren't others queuing up?

Further performances at the Salisbury Festival, 7 June (01722 323888) and Cheltenham Festival, 18 July

Tell me it's not true

David Soul should be booked for his part in 'Blood Brothers'. By David Benedict

name the member of senior management at one of our foremost. opera houses who, when asked, immediately sang the theme tune to Starsky and Hutch, complete with Isaac Hayes-esque electric guitar impersonation. For those old enough to remember, Saturday nights were blonde, cool David Soul and frisky Paul Michael Glaser doing for the wrap-around cardigan what Emma Peel had done for black leather.

Peel, of course, was played by Diana Rigg, now an altogether different type of dame and currently starring in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Last year, we were promised David Soul going legit opposite Hannah Gordon in Henry James's The Aspern Papers. Alas, this spectacularly unlikely doubleact collapsed prior to opening but he's here at last in Willy Russell's suprisingly tenacious Blood Brothers.

Bolstering this show by inserting stars is word in theatrical sophistication and the last Booking: 0171-369 1733

or fear of legal reprisals. I shall not nothing new Kiki Dee, Petula Clark, David, Shaun Cassidy and even Carole King have boosted box-office for the first Greektragedy-goes-scouse musical but all of the above took the leading roles in this tough, heartfelt story of a mother who loses her sons. Hiring a name to play the marginal role of the narrator is like trying to persuade a suitably full-throated as the struggling child that the best thing about a surprise par-

cel is the string. Throwing the focus away from the central trio does the show no favours. The rhyming couplets of the doom-laden plot narration are the least interesting component of the piece and anyone in their right mind would do everything to shift the audience's attention away from its portentousness. Soul glowers about in an ill-fitting version of a wouldbe smartly-cut five-button black suit plus shoes which probably cost more than the rest of the costume budget put together. This gritty show was never meant to be the last

thing it needs is unnecessary gloss, but the No Expense Spent ethos yields disgracefully sbabby results.

The rest of the cast work hard to divert you, belting out the songs and playing the class warfare and heart-on-sleeve sentiment for all they're worth. Sjobhan McCarthy is mother, Stephen Palfreman seizes workingclass Mickey with both hands and Jan Graveson wrings patbos and every last laugh as the girlfriend caught between hope and despair.

But Soul? His accent would not disgrace a Brigadoon revival and the singing is adequate but this is a fan event. Of course, he knows all about the plot's dealing's with fate, superstition and the devil - he sold his soul to star in the TV devil-drama Salem's Lot. And theo there were the singles... All together: "Don't Give Up on the Day Job ..." To 15 Feb, Phoenix Theatre, London, WC2.



Bloodless: David Soul and Siobhan McCarthy Alpha

THE EXHIBITION THE CONCERT THE FILM Ransom Georges Braque **Palestrina** The British stage premiere of Hans Pfitzner's 1917 opera about art and its responsibilities produced by Nikolaus Lehnhof, designed by Tobias Hoheisel Mel Gibson and Rene Russo are parents 45 paintings from the last 20 years (he died in 1963) of Georges Braque who still overview dealing and double-dealing with their son's KEY kidnapper in a Richard Price's tautty languishes in the shadow of fellow cubist plotted thriller directed by Ron Howard Picasso. Still lives, interiors and a series of and conducted by Christian Thielemann. who gave us Cocoon and Apollo 13. paintings of the artist's studio. Andrew Graham-Dixon was moved. "A life Bayan Northcott took against the Ryan Gilbey was impressed by "the first critical thoughtful, "provincial" staging, but "See it by all means". "Spaciously conducted ... its flaws are fascinating," nodded the Ron Howard movie to haunt rather than lived around some mysterious absence EXCELLENT coalesces into an entirely serious and melancholic image." "To be contemplated in desert the mind". "A sustained twister of view surprises... You're sent away shaken and stirred," purred the Standard. "A finely the meditative calm with which they were Guardian. "The Royal Opera has done painted," praised the Spectator. "Immensely tooled suspense thriller," declared the FT. Palestrina proud: see It; once," decided GOOD rewarding and, at bmes, revelatory," sang the Times. "A wretched little exhibition," sneered the Times. "A nuble effort," concluded "Overwrought but riveting," conceded the FT. "Does Covent Garden such Time Out. "Did it have to be so Inng, so d the Standard. artistic credit," saluted the Telegraph. uneven," queried the Times? QK on view Royal Academy, London W1 (0171-439 7438) to 6 April. Ton't, 6, 10, 15 & 19 Feb at ROH, Covent Garden (0171-304 4000) Cert 15, 121 mins, on every conceivable C cinema screen. POOR Supremely wistful, a Four and a half hours: Surprisingly watchable. our view study in persistence, musically rewarding, tinged by sad dramatically absurd. For enthusiasts nniv.

Three men and a canary

Ben Thompson wises up to the gimmick gestures of the Eels

stayed pretty much the same since a time before Oasis first entered the album charts. The Eels by contrast are very bighly evolved. This shrinkwrapped trio from Echo Park in California have 1997 written through their souls like a stick of rock. And with their thrillingly sleek single "Novocaine for the Soul" poised to sweep them into a state of global enormousness, this gig at the Garage in Islington is the probably the last British appearance where the crowd will be able to smell them as well as see them.

he eel is a primeval

creature that has

The Eels record for the Dreamworks label (a plucky independent concern operated by basement entrepreneurs David Geffen, Jeffrey Katzenberg and Stephen Spielberg), who are clearly taking oo chances with their talented protégés. Prior to the band making their entrance, the most officious roadie in rock history doesn't just put towels out for them, be tests their drinks to check for poison. A canary stands patiently in a cage at the side of the stage, ready to give up its life in the event of an enemy gas attack.

The desert-dry stage manner of songwriter/ guitarist/ hammond organ maestro E suggests that this band are well able to look after themselves however. Their singer may look like the forgotten lovechild of Damon Albarn and Derek Nimmo, but his voice has the happy ability to quote from a legion of distinguished West Coast

forbears (Donald Fagen, Jackson Browne, Belinda Carlisle even) without ever sounding explicitly derivative. And their album, Beautiful Freak (to be released on 24 Feb), has enough deceptively simple melodies to keep the MTV nation whistling well into the next millennium

The Eels flout the restrictions of triohood with admirable pizazz: shifting seamlessly from one novelty to another - a telephone ("I'm kinda busy right now, I'm trying to rock London"), a banjo, a manhole cover, a jug of pebbles poured over the cymbals - without ever losing the plot of the song. The only question that remains to be answered, is, well, what is the plot of the song? What exactly is it that is being got across so clearly and with such great proficiency here?

Comparisons with Beck

are erroneous as the boy Hansen's grand mission to unite the modern and the archaic is his and his alone. There is a worrying absence of original thought at the heart of a song like "Guest List" and it seems strange that the number which seems to bring the most intense response from the hand themselves is a semi-ironic cover version (a virus in American music at the moment - see also Ben Folds Five's "Video Killed The Radio Star") of Sophie B Hawkins' "Damn, I wish I was Your Lover". A sneaking suspicion remains that, after Nirvana, no new American band wants to overdraw on its emotional capital.

The Birmingham ghost

Duncan Fallowell goes in search of a traveller who covered his tracks

With Chatwin: portrait of a writer by Susannah Clapp, Cape, £15.99

"his memoir of the legendary travel writer Bruce Chatwin, who died in 1989, is clev-erly organised by theme ("Objects", "Exot-ica", "Nomads"), and yet a broad chronology is helpfully preserved. The first thing one notices is that the author is in love with her subject - physically in love. The opening pages drool and flutter in an extended description of Chatwin's body and clothes. This fetishism continues at various levels throughout the book, which is more about things than ideas, feelings or relationships. The life is displaced into an externalisation of febrile materialism: shopping, eating, interior decoration, locations, and Chatwin's face.

In this, Susannah Clapp is only following the man for whom every object had to be a statement, every person useful for myth-making. "The meals that he arranged himself were minutely considered," she writes, and "In the flesh he could seem reticent, and people found him awkward to hug". The resulting story has something cold, humourless and creepily unhealthy about it, which is its essential fascination.

Not unexpectedly, Chatwin's first career was with Sotheby's, the greatest river of "things" on the planet. In his books, too, be was a collector, of honed impressions and observations. He was bad at structure and his books were put together with considerable help from other people. Susannah Clapp was the best of his editors, but he could be passive and accommodating even with informal companions. Thus Kevin Volans, a South African musician. commented that in one piece "there was altogether too much about baemorrhoids, and Bruce immediately took out a sentence or two."

Though Chatwin travelled a great deal, his life is thin on incident for the biographer. It was conducted more or less at one level, that of the swish English bourgeoisie. He lived in Belgravia, Mayfair, Oxfordshire; he stayed with the Mellys or Leigh Fermors or Conrans; he wrote with a

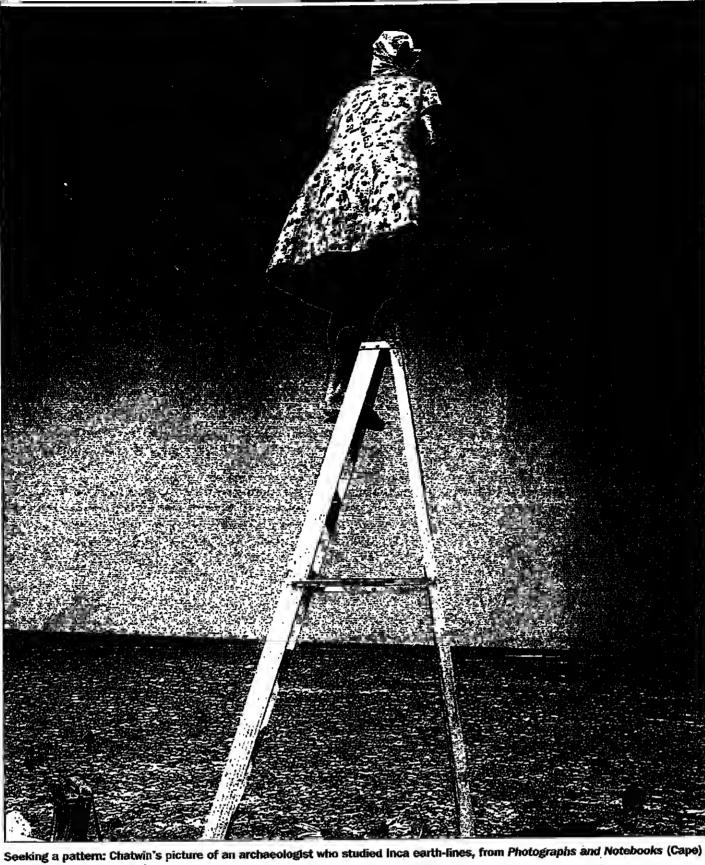
Moot Blanc peo in moleskin notebooks.

Surprisingly, there are almost no significant associations with foreigners. Chatwin was a voyeur in foreign parts, never involved. Clapp evokes well the lifestyle of his circle, though it degenerates here and there into copy for glossy magazines. The over-extended digressions on Francis Wyndham, the 17tb-century poet Henry Vaughan, and other ancillary characters are a more blatant form of padding, given the concise nature of the book.

To the lack of any muscular drama in his life except at the end), Clapp add There seem to be many people she doesn't wish to offend. The central fact of Chatwin's life - which explains almost everything about him - was his homosexuality. She refers to it on numerous occasions and cites his two most important lovers (Teddy Millington-Drake and Jasper Conran), but never takes on the psychological implications. In this context, his life's key relationship is not

with either of his male lovers or with his wife but with his parents, and this she doesn't mention. They occur, as they must, at his birth, then disappear altogether. Because of their psychological control - of which they may have been unaware - Chatwin remained painfully maladjusted to his inner self, secretive and forever indulging in decoy manocuvres which included marriage to a "sister" figure called Elizabeth and later, of course, his travelling.

Clapp presents Chatwin as a sort of free-wheeling, mischievous bisexual. Probably that is what he would have loved to have been, but he strikes me as absolutely not of this warm, cavalier Neal Cassady type. He comes across as far more anx-



He was fastidious and took good taste to a degree ont so much like a modern writer as a talented End by wheelchair.

The escape was not only from the parents, but from Birmingham where they lived. Because this . escape was a matter of geography, not confronta-tion, he remained always in thrall to his parents, while Birmingham, the citadel of naff, was ever waiting to re-engulf him.

Like Tennessee Williams, Chatwin was famous . for his abrupt disappearances. Clapp writes that "He hated being shut in". Claustrophobia and agoraphobia are complementary states from which many writers suffer. The solution is often to become a traveller or a rectuse, and to travel where you are not known combines both. This was Chatwin's strategy for survival; for fear of being shut in was fear of scrutiny, which was fear of exposure.

He often wrote beautifully, rarely deeply. His horror of self-revelation prevented that. Apparently. he could converse with animation, but the few quotations here are not more than amusing camp. On his status as a writer Clapp floats dangerously close to fag-hagiography. She is hyping from the first page, on which she asserts that the word "Chatwinesque" entered the language at the same

ious and effeminate. As a schoolboy he enjoyed time as "Thatcherite". Have you seen the word tion of Chatwin's residence at the Ritz, from which thit became another form of vulgarity. throwback to the early postwar world of Denton Welch and J R Ackerley, life-loving but careful and tortured in a very English way.

With Aids, Chatwin's life becomes tragic and contemporary. And no man did Aids suit less not only was it seen as a grotesque badge of homosexuality, it was somehow "Birmingham" too. He never publicly admitted his condition, concocting a more exotic disease instead. But after his death a number of friends who thought they were close were upset to discover that he felt he couldn't trust even them with the truth. Shame over what one is, especially when sustained to the grave, produces a curious depression in others.

Chatwin was served well by his friends. He clearly had great charisma. As a writer, his effortless glide to centre-stage was adorable, as it always is in art. But in life, it is less so, and Chatwin may well have been among those who saw in Aids a humiliating nemesis for the golden boy. For the first

The memoir, like the life, mounts well, then suddenly fades to nothing and dies. The last chapter is weird rather than poignant, with a vivid evoca- still with us.

embroidery and woo a prize for flower arranging. Chatwinesque before? I haven't. In fact, he reads he went on wild shopping sprees round the West

But at the end, so many questions have been that his parents lived part of every year in a caravan down there - why are they not present at this climax? He is dying, of course, at Shirley Conran's house, not far from where they lived. And what did the wife think of her gay and posturing busband? Why did she marry him? Why does she say nothing? Why does Jasper Conran say nothing? Why do so few people want to stand up and be counted? Why are his papers at the Bodleian embargoed until 2010? How for that matter did he contract HIV?

In 1938 Cyril Connolly wrote that "It is no exaggeration to say that every English writer since Byron and Shelley has been hamstrung by respectability and been prevented by snobbery and moral cowardice from attaining his full dimensions...it is the difference between being a good fellow and growing up".

Hardy, Lawrence and Auden prove Connolly

wrong. He nonetheless identified a huge problem area for English writers, which the life of Chatwin

and Susannah Clapp's rendition of it - prove is

A tsar is born again

Robert Service on a sad sage

Invisible Allies by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (translated by Alexis Klimoff and Michael Nicholson), Harvill, £9.99

n 1962, the USSR was still dazzling us by sending manned rockets into space, and there was concern that the West might lose its contest with the Soviet planned economy. That year, a literary meteor appeared in the form of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich. Previously, it had seemed that imprisonment and censorship had eradicated independent thought from Soviet culture, Now Solzhenitsyn's novella about a labour camp in the late Stalin period showed this to be incorrect. Courageous, critical spirits had survived in Russia.

Many contemporary readers assumed that Solzhenitsyn was a socialist. Why was this? The most obvious reason was that he initially enjoyed patronage of the regime. What is more, his critique of Stalinism was very understated. He deliberately described a rather "good" day in the life of prisoner Ivan Denisovich, Avoiding extravagant denunciation, be accorded a modicum of sympathy even to the nastier figures. And when the first news about Solzhenitsyn was relayed abroad, it was easy to believe that he was a man rather like Ivan Denisovich: simple, affable and modest.

Peace between the writer and the regime quickly broke down, and Solzhenitsyn was prominent in the dissident movement until, in 1974, he was deported. In this volume of memoirs, first published in Russian six years ago, he recalls his struggle and the dangers be ran. His account of the KGB's incompetent surveillance is a masterpiece of irony. Winter after winter, he vanished into the Estonian countryside – and no secret policemen knew where he was. Meanwhile, his helpers or "invisible allies" were scutting across Russia to deliver copies of his laboriously typed works into

hiding. To this day, copies still lie buried in gardens and woods. After Ivan Denisovich came two epic novels - The First Circle, Cancer Ward and his historical treatise The Gulag Archipelago. Solzhenitsyn was justly celebrated as a writer of unflinching bravery, and be continued to encourage

anti-communist dissent. Already, however, his behaviour showed a less attractive side. He was

crabby and unforgiving to several of those who had close dealings with him. His brand of Christianity, which he proclaimed as the sole means of regenerating Russia, was distinguished more by its stern sermonising than by compassion. His impatience with criticism was intense. In debate, he was as intolerant as the propagandists of Marxism-

His stated purpose in this book is to reveal the names of his secret helpers and express his thanks. But his sense of gratitude is seldom unaccompanied by some carping comment. Here a translator is roundly denounced, there a biographer is said to have misrepresented him. Even his helpers in the USSR, who risked their liberty, are judged sternly. All agreed with him in condemning Lenin's October Revolution; but one or two incautiously voiced approval of the Tsar's removal. Solzhenitsyn writes witheringly of their opinions. As a result, his book is deficient in graciousness and a sense of proportion.

Nowadays, this is also the conclusion drawn about bim by most citizens of the Russian Federation. He could have returned to Russia before 1994; first Gorbachev and then Yeltsin invited him. But he would accede only at a time of his own choosing, and grumpily stayed in the US to complete his multivolume novel on the First World War, the Revolutions. of 1917 and the Civil War. When finally he returned to Moscow, he received a rapturous reception which culminated in his address to_ the Federal Assembly. He was also given a chat-show on TV to promote his ideas on the future of Russia.

Unfortunately, his show

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involved more monologue than conversation. Predictably this was unattractive to most viewers, who regarded their liberation from communism as involving the freedom to be unserious and unbossed. The feeling grew that he had little understanding of the reasonable aspirations of ordinary Russians and the show was removed. He continues to be bewildered by his fate. Communism was cruel to him; postcommunism has in some respects been crueller. His latest book gives plenty of unintended clues as to why

things turned out this way.

The Nature of Blood **Caryl Phillips**

'A carefully crafted work, shifting seamlessly between past and present, and between different cultures . . . It is his boldest work to date, for a larger part of its boldness has to do with its artistry, the wonderfully measured pace of its unfolding. Phillips is a storyteller of considerable talent.' The Times

> Caryl Phillips will be reading from The Nature of Blood in:

Cambridge

7pm 6 February Waterstone's, 6 Bridge Street

6pm 11 February

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill

London 7.30pm 12 February Purcell Room, Royal Festival

Manchester 7pm 13 February Waterstone's, 91 Deansgate

Understand a little more

Philip Pullman praises a brave study of the Bulger case and its impact

As If by Blake Morrison, Granta, £14.99

ne day at the zoo I was place them? admiring the gibbons, with their playfulness and charm, when a starling flew down and landed just outside their cage. At once a long arm shot out and seized it. People gasped and cried out in alarm, and then in horror, as the ape tried to pull the terrified bird through the bars.

It finally succeeded and, beating off the other gibbons, it took the starling to a clear branch and began to a month, walked the route the chilpull it to pieces. I cao't forget the crackings and snappings, the tough white sinews, the lolling shricking head, and most of all the curious innocent concentration of the ape.

Because, of course, the ape was innocent. It couldn't reflect on what it was doing. And if there's a spectrum running from innocence to guilt - a spectrum marked by increasing consciousness and ability to reflect - then right out at the other end of it there are the likes of Frederick and Rosemary West, who could

Somewhere in between are the little killers of James Bulger. Were they truly evil, or didn't they know what Thompson and Jon Venahles did they were doing? Where should we know, fully, and that is part of the

Because knowing where to place

them means knowing how to judge them. Blake Morrison's troubling study of the Bulger case is profoundly concerned with these questions, and shows how difficult it is to come by any answers.

Morrison attended the trial of

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables in 1993. He stayed in Preston (where the boys' trial was held) for dren took on that dreadful day on Merseyside, heard the tapes of their interrogation ("Please God, never let me hear a child cry like that again. Or rather, let those who think these boys inhuman hear their all-toohuman distress"), meditated on his own children and his fears for them,

tried to understand. The book echoes with references to Macbeth, and that most murderhaunted play is apt. Hardly anywhere else in literature can we learn so vividly and horribly what it is like to be a murderer, to kill and to know fully what it is that we have done.

It's not certain that Robert

point. Morrison is clear that putting look of the bleak streets and hous- By making us complicit in a misthem on trial as if they were adults was grossly inappropriate: "Childhood is a separate place...You can't lock up for life those whose lives have barely begun."

On the other hand, what they did was horrible, and it's right to lock them up for it. But again, the question of whether they could have known won't go away: "To know, and yet not know - the condition of being

Morrison is very good on the appearance of things. So many of our most powerful judgements are made because of what things look like. Would Michael Howard have been able to declare that Myra Hindley should spend all her life in prison, as he did recently, without the continuing presence of that particular brutal-blonde photograph to fuel the public's loathing for her?

Part of our horror at the Bulger case is due to the video clip of the trusting toddler walking away hand-in-hand with his murderer. In this age, we can't escape these visual presences, so we must learn to read

Morrison brilliantly describes the

ing estates the children walked through on their way to the railway line, and is wise enough not to refrain from comment. "It must have an effect," he says; and yes, it

Similarly, he characterises both the appearance of the two boys and bis own reactions to it, and then quotes Macbeth once more to warn himself against making judgements based on the look of things. But we musi judge, because we are human, and because we are adult and responsible we must beware of the fallibility of our own judgements; but still, we must judge.

faltered. Morrison is describing himself putting his little daughter to bed, and he misleads us into thinking that we're reading a scene of seduction. I thought that I could see what he was doing with that story, but it's not the Bulger story.

There was no sexual motive in the killing, or if there was, it was never clearly established. At a first reading, this passage seemed like an error of Medal for children's literature last year Medal for children's literature last year. judgement.

However, I've changed my mind.

reading, he's showing us the importance of appearances once more, and always the need to reflect, to be fully

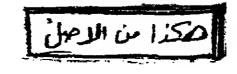
Which leads to another presence in this book, that of the words of John Major. His statement that "We must condemn a little more, and understand a little less" is the most wicked thing any British politician has said in my lifetime. It is worse by far than Margaret Thatcher's asser-tion that "There is no such thing as society", which is transparent bluster by comparison.

Of course we mustn't understand less. We can't go back to being chil-At one point I thought the book dren, back to the innocence of the ape. We must go forward into deeper knowledge, painful though that is.

Morrison's honest, courageous and subtle study is an addition to our

understanding, not least because it never overlooks the suffering of little James and his family. The ape's innocence made no difference to the

with the novel "His Dark Materials" (Point/Scholastic)



A blast of Jacobson's Organ

John Lloyd sizes up a theory of comedy that stretches its point

Seriously Funny: from the ridiculous to the sublime by Howard Jacobson, Viking, £20

his is a rich but indigestible

bouillabaisse of a book; a prodigious mix of the whole canon of western thought

about comedy from Aristophanes, Rabelais, Baudelaire, Jung, Freud and Bergson at one end to Bernard Manning, Jo Brand, Roy "Chubby" Brown and Les Patterson at the other. So who am I, a simple jokeherd toiling at the Mount of Bothers of the control of Bothers at the Mount of Bothers at the Moun

berd toiling at the Mount of Bot-toms, to say that after all that

research the author doesn't know

what he's talking about? Either that, or he does know but has no inten-

tion of sharing it with us, viz "Com-

edy is invariably on the side of plen-itude; it is expansionist not reductive;

it knows that less means less and

only more means more". Any the

Howard Jacobson has his

moments, with interesting things to say and vivid ways of saying them;

but too often he's tempted to be, like

Jonathan Miller, "too clever by three-quarters". The list of names

above gives you a pretty good idea of bow the book works. Either it's

expatiating on the theories of dis-

credited old misery-guts like Berg-son and Freud or it's ankle-deep in

knob-gags. There are no half-mea-

sures. The often impenetrable prose

is lavishly nuggeted with erudition,

like smarties on a child's cake. I nod-

ded off a few times, only to be jolted awake by another of Jacobson's

buge range of false penises staring me in the face. Like a Dutch girl I

know, forced to take the traditional

stroll through Amsterdam the night before her wedding with a dildo strapped to ber forehead, Jacobson

He claims that "The entire expe-

rience of theatre-going, for the

Greeks, was phallus-centred." Just

as you're beginning to wonder

whether that might not be a hit of an exaggeration, he whips out a vase

displaying a satyr halancing a wine-

jug on his knoh and then he's off: "If

that makes satyr the earliest come-

dian, later comedians have not failed

to learn from him. Herakles has his

club. Harlequin his batte. Grimaldi

his stove-poker. Punch his universal

cudgel. The jester his marotte and

bladder. Ken Dodd's tickling stick is

clearly in the ithyphallic tradition."

I love that "clearly". Clear is what it is not: less than one reader in cent

Patronising it is, bien sûr, and also

cojones. Occam's razor: of two alter-

ling stick is what it says it is, a stick

which offers the threat or promise of

being tickled. Up yer undercarriage,

missus, to be sure; but that doesn't

If there is even a hint of a sentient

being holding something in its paw,

from Soory to a statue of Queen Vic-

toria, then to Jacobson it's a cock.

Now, it was I who once convinced

the Controller of BBC2 to broadcast

tickle me as much as the next man.

But this is commitment of a differ-

is this guy getting enough?"

stop it being a feather duster.

too bas de penis on de brain.

tsar is

To The Manager Age of the

irt Service on a sac.

Me The Way E & Thinkell. second alarma

Man white in where he

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人表达的事情。

might be rather endearing if it novels that live up to the expectation of something new. surprising, even genuinely "promising" (though it seems a hit patronising to consider what ought to be a satisfying novel in itself as a mere appetiser for the grand plat to come). Only one, Christopher John Farley's My

a specific, contemporary social setting: at the outbreak of the Gulf War. The other three deal with crack-ups, yet all are about

had weaker endings than they had beginnings; it seems that only old writers with lots of experience are Farley is a 29-year old black journalist. No marks for guessing who his protagonist is (not a Zen potter from Newfoundland). He

finds himself sent on assignment, columnist on The Washington Post. Farley's analysis of the war, frequent, though it's much more "She was something-something". On being single: "Would I have to, in the end, settle for someone who thought they might be

With Bless The Thief (Secker & Warburg, £15.99), Alan Wall has

critical author, and many

novels). Grimshaw initiates Tom into the secret Delaquay society at Oxford, and Tom becomes its youngest ever secretary. Each late Delaquay: Dante, The

Tom's breach of the society's code leads to his descent into a and sentences that glide along



Pick of the week My Favourite War by Christopher John Farley (Granta, £8.99)

like chipped-glass swans on water, catching the light.

Suspicious River (Faber & Faber, £9.99) is a novel by a poet, Laura Kasishke, wbose abundant images do not so much embellish. the work as provide a tense rigging that enables it to surge towards its grimly inevitable conclusion. It's a bleak. sumptuous, nasty account of a girl, Leila, whose mother slept with men for love or money, sometimes both. Leila does this too, gulping down the abuse with

Sometimes the images don't quite come off: "roses, puffy and soft as pneumonia", for instance. But sometimes she speaks so plainly that it hurts: "He's my height and my length and my body feels safe with his, as if I am

desiring myself, as if there'a only

a dry mouth.

one of us to please. Tracey Chevalier's Virgin Blue (Penguin, £5.99) has been selected for the WH Smith Fresh Talent promotion, which is such an achievement for a serious female writer that you feel it deserves an award. Her novel is about a young American woman who goes to live in a French

village and researches her

Mediterranean man.

Huguenot ancestors - and a

This is a good read: no clichés in sight, a well-made story with characters who walk and talk just the way people do, balfway between hallucination and public facade. It's almost as enjoyable as My Favourite War, thought less eye-poppingly well written than Suspicious River and Bless The Thief. In fact, there's nothing in this batch of novels not to recommend, which goes to show that sometimes, as a cigar is just a cigar, a blurh is just a blurb.

Computer malfunctions

Frances Fyfield switches off

Stalking Flona by Nigel Williams, Granta, £15.99

nier the alternative heroine, on big feet, Fiona is a lonely girl secretary with an ugly flat and undecided life. There was once a man called Dave .but she got rid of him. Her closest relationship of any kind is with her mum. a grey specimen of parenthood who never opens her mouth except to state the irritatingly obvious ("Oh, you're in, are you?") - a style of dialogue which is obviously infectious. The substitute for life as other 23-three year olds might know it is the regime of her office. Here. Fiona is the apparently anonymous focal point fur three accountants, Peter, Paul and John. There may be something significant in their apostolie names, but in any event. this is no ordinary set-up. One of the accountants is a psychotic murderer who, complete with marigold gloves and horrible mask, has invaded Fiona's dreary apartment and raped her, leaving her with the immortal threat, (in a heavily disguised voice, of course). "If vou tell anyone about this. I will kill you."

second attack, in bizarre cireumstances, when again it could have been any one of the three. His communications both confess the crime to her and their computers, while pretending to be one of the other suspects at the same time. The hits on disc are in block capitals, to save confu-

The two innocent accountants, who secretly love Fiona, conspire in separate communications to save her and themselves. Yet they remain equally suspect, since the pall of corruption hangs over the place. One of the accountants is a lecher, the second a victim of childhood trauma and the third a model family man.

Fiona and reader, between them, are supposed to decipher which one is guilty from her first person-recollection, via a diary and narrative, and and so on.

In the meantime, Fiona is safer than she might be anywhere else for as long as she is with two out of the three suspects - unless they are all in it

Three voices, all in the first risk of clarity or heart.

person, with scarcely a shift in tone or style, make this novel a monochrome nightmare to read. There are the conventionally violent, pornographic famasies of the culprit, which could have been learned from under-the-counter merchandise at any video store. Then there is the prospect that Fiona might be making it all up to add a little millation to the suspense – although find-ing much suspense at all is like looking for an envelope when there are none in the house.

It would be a clever conceit to weave a plot around four. anonymous people if there were indeed something distinctive about their voices, and only if we could he made to care about the fate of at least one of them. Frankly, towards the middle of this novel (let alone the end) it was difficult to give a shit whether poor. passive Finna was impaled on a stake, never mind raped.

If the other three were to spend the rest of life sharing a cell, so much the better, so long as their conversation was not recorded for posterity. There follows the murderer's Perhaps Williams is being too subtle in failing to realise that first-persun reported narrative is notoriously difficult to sustain, especially when diffused hetween so many narrators. Maybe this is a cult book for pre-dawn Internet freaks. in love with the screen and incapable of other communication. Could it even be a private joke, without a public laugh. Perhaps it is simply, a failed experiment.

There is no ohligation on a writer as fine as Nigel Williams can be to define either his genre or his motive. And there is certainly some elegant and lucid prose in this book, which gives it the feeling of a Pinteresque script in the making. But it has all the signs of an author drunk with subject matter, writing in the absence of anyone tapping his shoulder.

That figure at his shoulder should have reminded him which this novel inevitably falls, is rich in literary talent these days. Anyone who dabhles in it must at least ereate genuine sympathy and suspense. Taking the minimalist approach is fine, but not at the

Nineteen Eighty-Four. Nineteen Eighty-Four is the 2nd greatest book of the century, as voted for by Waterstone's customers. and Channel 4 viewers. To find out which other great works make up the 100 Books of the Century and for an essential guide to 20th century literature, visit any Waterstone's bookshop. If, while you're there, you discover there are some you haven't read, from now until the end of February you can buy any four titles from the list for the price of three, for an indication of where you might like to start, try the thoughts of Germaine Greer reviewing the list in "W" magazine, available in all Waterstone's shops, priced £1. WATERSTONE'S BOOKS OF THE CENTURY. IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHANNEL 4.

rics did 2 th January - 2nd March and beenfel only in confunction with the 2.

Death and the Fool from Thomas Rowlandson's The English Dance of Death (1815) insides spread out to view. His aca- eat - I'm a cunt". It's a great joke, if is to intimidate by humiliating."

Then I had my Britannica CD Rom search for "jacobson". The very first entry it threw up was: "Jacobson's Organ: region of chemically sensitive nerve endings in the oral cavity (my italics) of many vertebrate animals.

ing coincidence. It is an explanation.
What do you expect? Jacobson's mille knows what ithyphallic means. Organ is more famous than he is. There's another odd thing about this book. Like that new novel by natives, choose the simplest. A tick- Sean French and Nicci Gerrard, it seems to be written by two people. One is the Jacobson who was "born in Mancbester in 1942"; the other the Jacobson who "studied English under FR Leavis". The Mancunian is responsible for most of the best hits. He has a lively, expressive style. He makes jokes, is painfully bonest.

and has the advantage that he writes almost exclusively in English. The Leavisite, I suspect, may not the Cunnilingus Song. Genitals be a person at all but some form of software. He's a Eurothesaurus, perhaps, with a simultaneous translator function and a hizarre taste for Zuni

ent order. After 85 pages of knobs and arses, Hopi Indians lobbing shit and Hopi pueblo clowns who drink urine and chuck poo at each other. at each other, satyrs balancing amphorae on stiffies and Scandina-The first bloke is a nervous, touchy vian deities plaiting their puble individual with a larger than usual regions to goats' beards, I thought: personal space, frightened of clowns, spiders and teenagers, who lurches I looked him up on the fly-leaf. alarmingly between weeping and Goaty-looking feller. Beard. Priapic contempt. He's like some anatomi-

suppose we all ought to know what an apophthegm is, but anhedonic, evaginations, agelast?

Jacobson's organ is most strongly present in snakes". This richly phalmound the world to find out why peolic passage is more than just a strike ple laugh for the accompanying sandwich, Hopi shit-throwing cere-Channel 4 series. He doesn't have intich fun. People jostle him. They Indian; a Venetian barlequin tries to

pull off his nose at the Carnival. Meanwhile, the other Jacobson tours fifth-century BC Athens, the Commedia dell'Arte, the Middle Ages etc. meeting only poets, psy-chologists and philosophers. They neither jostle nor smell. They opine.

. The trouble is that citing learned authority has never been any guarantee of truth. No-one's right about everything. Take Aristotle. How seriously can we take his assurances on comedy, when he also assures us that the universe revolves around the earth? Quoting Bergson's line that "the attitudes, gestures and movements of the body are laughable in exact proportion as that hody reminds us of a mere machine is to be expected. But did no-one laugh

before the invention of machinery? In the contest for the best lines, the comics beat the philosophers bands down. Bernard Manning, for not be absolutely just. Nor should it instance: "They say you are what you proboscis; shagged-out looking eye. cal diagram of a person, all his

demic alter ego is altogether more you like that sort of thing, but Jacob-dispassionate. And very well read. I son's comment? "Good to he reminded that there's a bit of a gourmand and a hit of a pig in all of us".

A hit of a gourmand? If you ever monies will bold no terrors for you. The comedy of cruelty is only one What's funny about such jokes is not kind of comedy. Plenty of funny bave pustules. They smell of vinegar. that they are rude or "remind us of things have nothing to do with the He is nearly thumped by a Navajo our animality" - that's incidental - body's mortality or phalluses. but that they're clever. They make completely inexpected, but logical connections between disconnected things. The other reason Manning gets the laugh is because it's true. He is a cunt, he knows it, and we know it. He no more reminds anyone of stinky, is "exuberant". But let him go themselves than a pile of rotting

> antelope flesh resembles a clarinet. It is not animality, or mortality or all that stuff we feel when offered a good joke. It is delight delight at the unexpectedness, the neatness, the logic of the uncoupling of the mind from one train of thought to another.

> But what's Jacobson getting at under his mound of arses? Here's the nub: "If comedy, in all its changing shapes, has one overriding preoccupation, it is ... that we resemble beasts more closely than we resemhle gods, and we make great fools of ourselves the moment we forget it". He enlists Bergson: "Laughter can-

I'd guess this book comes from a man without children. No-one who lives with a one-year-old, whose gurgling hilarity clearly comes from nothing more sinister than the sheer merriment of being alive, of being able to walk, of having a mummy who loves you, could have written it. kind of comedy. Plenty of funny Jacobson's view is so one-sided pre-

cisely because he lacks a sense of being alive. He won't join in. Anything pagan, remote, foreign or ancient, no matter how gross or to Blackpool pier and he is moaning about the weather, the tea, the hotel and the "shit in the shops, shit on the beach, shit in the amusement arcades". Pueblo shit, oh, mahhvellous. Shit shit, be don't like.

Touchingly, he says as much himself. After the borrible experience in Venice, be staggers back depressed to a café: "How vitalizing carnival looks on the printed page. How irresistible in all its communal contortions... As long as you never have to leave the house". Despite it all, I felt quite sorry for the guy.

John Lloyd is a comedy produced who started "The News Quiz", "Not The Nine O'Clock News", "Spitting he kindhearted either. Its function Image" and "Blackadder"

Independent choice: first novels

By Helen Stevenson

is not a blurb; it's an admission.

any case. Just as a learner driver

may have been on the road for.

years or simply hours, the first

novelist may have a greater or lesser experience of his metier.

The blurb rarely says that "after

15 failed manuscripts, here is a

triumphant dehut from X". It

Here, though, are four first

Favourite War (Grantn. £8.99) has

This is a misleading category in

ere's an idea: no more blurbs for first novels. A first novel should be taken like a glass of wine at a hlind tasting, saving the blurb for later, people who feel more like just to check if your guesses themselves at the end than when concerning sex, age, busband's they first set out. All these novels first name, number of domestic animals, and degree of talent estimated by publisher were all correct. Except that a first novelist good at endings. has Talent as sure as wine is wet. Without the word "talent" a blurb

covering the Gulf War, as researcher to a beautiful black of American society, of being black, single and professional, is quick, contemporary and very funny - the jokes are good and than an annotated edition of a Clever Boy's bon mots. Of an editor who lies about her age:

settling for me? written a very serious, very good

novel. At the same time, it's one of those novels that somehow has the anthor's own reservations written in invisible ink in the margins. You sense a highly

painstaking drafts. To be fair, Wall pretty much has got it right, through baving been exceptionally rigorous with himself. Bless The Thief is the story of Tom Lynch and his guardian/headmaster Patrick Grimshaw (a no-good mother in the background further swells the ratios of no-good mothers to nogood fathers in current first

member holds the original, neverto-be-reproduced copy of one of the works illustrated by the great, Marriage of Heaven and Hell, The Gospel According to St John.

among others. Baudelairian world dominated by squalor, drink and loathing. This is an elegant piece of writing, full of things ne'er so well expressed,



books

olitical insiders who write novels about great affairs of state almost always get it embarrassingly wrong. Not the facts or the folklore, but the tone - the edgy, tart, sardonic air that blows through all the corridors of power, but which the Dobbses and the Curries clumsily distil into a knowing sixth-form cynicism. Read Joe Klein's Primary Colors - an ocean ahead of its British rivals - for proof of just how high the political novel can climb. Back in the land of tahloid tittle-tattle, truth beats fiction any day.
A single page of Alan Clark's
Diaries delivers a clearer view
of the private springs of public
life than a whole shelf of dire

parliamentary potboilers. Yet here comes heavy-footed Michael Dobhs again. Between ibem, his star Ian Richardson and his adapter Andrew Davies dragged Dobbs's Francis Urquhart trilogy way above its literary station. Some similarly gifted TV team should do the same with Goodfellowe MP (HarperCollins, £16.99) to wipe out the memory of just how dull this novel is. Thomas Goodfellowe, its crumpled cru-sader, is a backbench "piece of parliamentary flotsam" with a wrecked family and a glorious future behind him. In a less than thrilling intrigue, be ventures out from his Soho eyrie to bust a Buchaneseque industrial cartel which plans (with belp from a crudely caricatured Maxwellian magnate) to seize control of British newsapers. The only laugh in this perfunc-tory plot, decked out in dreary Archer-level prose, comes from the notion that EU legislation might force our upstanding breed of media barons to sell their titles to a bunch of spivs. Remind me, now: who is it that

controls HarperCollins?
In contrast, Micbael Toner's Seeing the Light (Simon & Schuster, £15.99) manages a few half-decent thrills and some nice touches of sulphurous wit. Toner (a former Express lobby correspondent) creates a Tory minister compelled to do good by three glimpses of heaven and hell.

The sudden conversion to virtue - and the havoc it wreaks has a fine satirical pedigree (Toner calls his would-be saint George Gulliver). Unexpectedly, though, those parts of the book that stray furthest from political sbenanigans impress the most. Toner's efforts to enter the head of "a 20th-ceotury Englishman sunk in medieval dread" work surprisingly well, especially when Gulliver sets off on a sacrificial quest into the Sahara. Meanwhile, the usual Westminster imbroglio - with its sleazy hacks and back-stabhing MPs - raises only faint smiles. For blood and guts, the actual Tory leadership contest of 1990 outstripped the one Toner invents. Still, I did enjoy the idea of the Almighty materialising to Gulliver as a pukka gent in a Garrick Cluh tic. As He explains, "You need metaphors, George". So do we all - including a few of the plodding literalists who walk the parliamentary fiction beat.

Boyd Tonkin

More butterfly than bee

Laura Thompson finds that a memoir of The Greatest pulls its punches

The Tao of Muhammad All by Davis Miller, Vintage, £7.99

hat is a bero? One possible definition is that your bero is yourself turned outwards. The particular quality of courage, chutzpah, genius that you feel lies within is, in the bero, not just reflected but opened. What is hidden in you is sunlit in them.

Certainly this is how Davis Miller feels about Muhammad Ali. Throughout Miller's life, Ali has been his sunlit self, the self whose pallid skin gleams with "pecan beauty", whose desire to communicate with people is simplified into huge and virile gestures, whose triumphs and sufferings become transcendent. This is the relationtranscendent. This is the relation-ship that Miller's book attempts to

The book also tells the story of the actual friendship that developed between hero and worshipper. Dur-ing the 1980s, Miller and his family lived near Ali's mother; one day, be knocks on Mrs Clay's door. The three chapters that follow - which describe the tentative bond hetween Miller and Ali, and the hetween Miller and Ali, and the sbamhling, yet still-powerful figure that is the Ali of today – are by far the best in the book. One passage has Miller and Ali sparring in Mrs Clay's backyard: "I instinctively hlock and/or slide to the side of all three of Alice purposes and immediately three of Ali's punches and immediately feel guilty about it, like being 14 years old and knowing for, the first tine that you can beat your Dad at ping-pong."

The joke is still on Miller, how-

ever. Later, Ali sbadow boxes around his mother's sitting room and creates the illusion that "he can still make fire appear in the air...I'd honestly thought that what he'd thrown in the yard was indicative of what he had left. But what he'd

what he had left. But what he'd done was allow me to play; he'd wanted me to enjoy myself."

Miller returns to this idea that Mubammad All's greatest gift was—and remains—an ability to liberate the playfulness, the joyful cbild, in his audience. It is a terrific insight convered Far insight, convincingly conveyed. Far more often, however, Miller's subject eludes his authorial control. He to reveal that there is more to



Muhammad Ali takes the world heavyweight title from Sonny Liston in 1964

is rightly insistent on the autonomy of Ali, recognising that even the "most famous man in the world" still has a life of his own that resists analysis. In a sense, that is the message of his book.

It is, however, a message that comes across in ways that Miller perhaps did not intend. His worshipful rendering of Ali, of every detail of his clothing, conversation and bebaviour, surely did not wish so often to give the impression of a spoilt show-off, childishly obsessed with the power of his own legend.

The problem is that, however much Miller may insist on his desire

Muhammad Ali than the myth, the appeal of his book relies almost completely upon the fact of that myth. Within every page lies the belief that Muhammad Ali is The Greatest. Quite simply, those who do not subscribe to that belief will not subscribe to this book.

There is another problem with The Tao of Muhammad Ali, but this is not the fault of its author. One cannot blame Davis Miller for the fact that there bave been, over the past five years or so, too many books published about sport, about Ali, and about the personal connection that writers feel with their subject. Nor is it his fault that, power of literary fashion.

thanks to over-exposure in trendy men's magazines, bis style bas become something of a clicbé. One knows too well that scene in the tattered boxing gym, where the writer inhales the liniment and metamorphoses into Norman Mailer, too well, also, the scene which describes the death of a parent. One cannot doubt its sincerity, but this honesty

reveals nothing but itself. Yet this is a likeable book, occasionally penetrating, occasionally moving. That it would bave had more power, bad it been published ten years ago, is a rather sad indictment of the even greater-

A cold fish out of water

Roger Clarke on the posh conman who fooled himself

Roll the Dice by Darius Guppy. Blake Publishing, £15.99

by the tender ministrations of the rabloid press, ever since the story of Darius's spoof robbery hit the headlines in 1990. Previous generations had known the name as the genus of a ferociously sexual tropical fish, and for the exploits of the amazingly fat Victorian medium of the Guppy tribe, who defied gravity to levitate around the rooms of Dickensian London.

The grotesque medium is not mentioned by Guppy in his long list of illustrious ancestors, which includes medieval clerics, tycoons from the industrial resolution, and husbytrial revolution and hushy-hearded Islamic scholars. Gupa, we learn, means "bright in haitle", from a Saxon word. It is certainly a swasbbuckling monicker, which the young Darius took to beart from his earliest days: for example, at the age of 11, be ruthlessly harangued people to buy Union Jack stickers on the Kings Road, with all the air of a military operation.

He dreamed of martial glory, of winning, of getting rich. Boldness and cheek were essential ingredients for suc-cess," he decided. Guppy felt trapped by the modern age and saw money was the only way of getting outside of it.

Like many people of his background, he knew that many of the super-rich were only super-rich through bending the rules. But bending the rules also meant not getting rules also meant not getting caught - an important lesson from bis schooldays.

Never a good judge of people, be put his trust in a petty criminal Peter Risdon, who choreographed the robbery of £1.8 million worth of gems

Such adjectives have become surgically implanted in the name Guppy by the tender ministrations of picked up by the police on a separate matter, decided to shop Guppy in exchange for

There can be little doubt the police loathed Guppy from the start, and that he encouraged them to loathe him. From the outset he started getting rou-tine harassment from them, and papers and photographs confiscated from his bouse during searches were sold to newspapers from police

Unfortunately for Guppy, most people aren't much interested in his tales against the police (if you lie down with dogs you get up with fleas - as be discovered with Risdon). The means justify the ends: a popular moral ethic which, like popular moral ethic which, bke much popular moral ethics, bas little to do with law.

His friends are as puzzled by this book as his enemies. and Guppy has the fatal talent of being more dangerous to his friends than his enemies - a curious feature in a man so preoccupied with loyalty. Roll the Dice is replete with mawkish sentimentality, self-obsession and deseit. Gunny has sion and deceit. Guppy bas some talent as a writer (bis early poems were praised by Christopher Logue) yet be has allowed his mercenary instincts to monster bis artis-

tic ones. By co-writing the book with a tabloid journalist, be has produced a horrific hybrid. His faults are glaringly magnified by the dumb journalese, his more iconic and unusual qualities entirely dwarfed by the book's money-garnering glee. Having fought with the press for so long, Guppy has become one of their creatures; and he doesn't even realise it.

Skirmishing in Spain on an unsentimental journey

Penelope Lively enjoys a master craftsman's despatches from the battlefield of life

Blame Hitler by Julian Rathbone, Gollancz, £15.99

24 novels, of which a mere three are in print in paperback; probably his name is familiar only to those who base their reading on the public libraries. This is regrettable, because be is a writer of great flexibility, moving easily from the historical novel through thrillers to the sort of contemporary fiction with psycbological overtones that we have bere. Blame Huler is a demonstration of that professionalism which is invisible until you stand hack and unravel exactly what has been done.

Students of creative writing could take on the theme as a challenge. Within 287 pages and a nar- south and then possibly on into gravity. First there are just the stan- about his father, about the war, nomic climate: an Oxford graduate hattlefield experience.

ulian Rathbone is the author of rative time-span of around a fortnight, serve up convincing portraits of two families, one contemporary, one in the 1930s, evoke the atmosphere of a family holiday, blend in significant references to the Peninsula War and the Libyan campaign and underpin the whole with a meaningful correlation between private life and public

Thomas Somers is pushing 60, married to a woman nearly 20 years younger and with children of ten and 14. The fuur of them are on a motoring holiday in France: on a motoring holiday in France:
an unstructured affair which is to
take them to stay with friends in the
un from the start, with mounting
distinctly unappealing and I'm not
sure that this is the author's intention. He is obsessive in every way

Throughout the trip, be drifts from the reality of family, friends and the scenes of the itinerant holiday to his internal wanderings, based on the edition of Wellington's despatches which he is reading (edited by Julian Rathbone, quotations duly acknowledged) and, even more significantly, his disturbed reflections about his childhood. Within days Thomas will reach the age at which his father died; he finds this prospect deeply

Spain, pandering to Thomas's dard misbaps of car keys appar-obsession with the Peninsula War. ently lost, the cap of the petrol tank left on the car roof, the near accident that leaves everyone shaken out of holiday complacency. Thomas gets a bout of flu. More sinister - be bas rectal bleeding. Thomas's bowel movements become a central matter of the nar-

My own reservations about Thomas are not that we have to spend an awful lot of time in the lavatory with him, but concern his personality. He comes across as

about sex. He is panicked by that never able to earn a decent living, looming climacteric - 60. The anxious sexual fanaticism lands him in trouble when be allows himself to believe that a young hippy who picks him up is seduced by his ageing charms. He is far more tolerable when mulling over the memories of his parents, which weave into the contemporary narrative and turn it into something more than a brisk account of a meander through France and into Spain.

Thomas's father was a victim of history, his life "stained" by an distinctly unappealing and I'm not event during his war service in the western desert. But before that, he was betrayed by the social and eco-

a man trapped by class and the conviction that his father was a better man than be is and also by a kind of grim rivalry. The final section takes Thomas off on his own into Spain, allowing for a defiantly appreciative account of a builfight and some convincing drunken hallucinations of the Peninsula campaign. And even if the end seems an anti-climax, this is a shrewd and intricate narrative by a skilful novelist, admirably deft in its shifts from the inconsequential dailiness of the family boliday to the immediacies of childhood memory and

Audiobooks



Annie Proulx's laconic writing is even better heard than read Newfoundland eccentricities and the "four women in every man's heart" come through sharp as ice in The Shipping News (Simon & Schusier, 4.5 hrs, £11.99), though its abridgement may lose newcomers a little sympathy for its outwardly fleshly, inwardly soulful hero, and Robert Joy's voice occasionally flattens out.

Critics wavered when dealt Accordion Crimes (S&S, 5 hrs. £11.99). Proulx's sensual serial portrait of the immigrants that make up America. But its episodic form works well on audio, and Edward Hermann's reading is brilliantly sustained.

Christina Hardyment

NEW AUTHORS Publish Your Work All Subjects Considered AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED RITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO

Paperbacks -



By Christopher Hirst, Lucasta Miller and Boyd Tonkin

CivilWarLand in Bad Decline by George Sanders (Vintage, £5.99) Set in a dystopian future - though, being America, it could even be the present - this darkly satirical collection of six short stories and a novella explores the common theme of false reality. We are plunged into the hallucinogenic world of artificial memories and gimcrack theme parks, such the sleazy CivilWarLand of the title story. This shifting territury has been well explored by writers from Michael Moorcroft to Ray Bradbury and in a host of science fiction films, but Sanders has an original voice and his insidious, twisted yarns lodge in your mind like illicit dreams.

Storms of Silence by Joe Simpson (Vintage, £7.99) After two acclaimed mountaineering books, there is a sense of peakfatigue in this work which yokes together high-altitude jaunts in Nepal and Peru. Simpson's particular shtick is being a tough-but-tender sort of guy, whether facing up to a drunk in Sheffield or slogging across alpine scree. But his moral

qualms ("mountaineers are simply credit card adventurers") are undermined by selfdramatisation, He certainly can write, though he has trouble ordering his material. Seeing the site of a natural disaster in Peru prompts an inappropiate seven-page memoir about a teenage visit to Belsen.

Selected Letters by Lady Mary

Wortley Montagu (Penguin Classics, £9.99) From passionate youth "Ay. Ay. as you say my Dear, Men are vile Inconstant Toads") to wise old age, Lady Mary is one of the most entertaining of all English letter writers. The famous set-pieces are here, such as descriptions of a female invasion of the House of Lords ("The Duchess of Queensbury ...pished at the illbreeding of a mere lawyer") and a Turkish bath in Sofia ("I excus'd my selfe [by] opening my skirt and shewing them my stays"), alongside the fervent fusillade prompted by a mid-life infatuation with an Italian intellectual. Beautifully edited, these epistles glitter with wit

The French by Theodore Zeldin (Harvill, £7.99) This lengthy amiable dissection of our mysterious, distrusted and envied neighbours has heen constantly in print for 17 years. Most of its findings remain spoton, though Bardor's 1983 statement that she "is now less demanding" bas not proved to he the case. The 30 or so themes in the book are usually approached via profiles of individuals, which Zeldin fascinatingly expands: did you know that the French imported both kissing and handshaking from England? France becomes a more enjoyable and intelligible place to visit after reading this book, but the opaque cartoons serve as a reminder of the unbridgeable gulf between us.

Keeper of Genesis by Robert Bauval and Graham Hancock (Mandarin, £6.99) In their first collaborative effort, these bestselling explorers of the arcane tackle the riddle of the Sphinx, which is usually dated to 2,500BC. They suggest that it has been re-carved from a figure dating back to 10,500 BC. Together with the Great Pyramids, it may form an astronomical diagram from this time. The authors' speculations, engineering prowess of the ancient Egyptians, make irresistibly enthralling reading. Sadly, the book is marred by silly, strident language: "the time has come to seek the buried treasure of our forgotten genesis and destiny". Still, that's what the readers want.

Dared and Done: the marriage of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning by Julia Markus (Bloomsbury, £9.99) Julia Markus believes, quite rightly, that no amount of 20th-century demythologising can exise the romance from the relationship between the Victorian poets Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning. Her lively account of their secret courtship in Wimpole Street and subsequent life in Italy has enough in the way of new angles (if not new data) to intrigue. As well as homing in on Elizabeth's drug addiction and gullible



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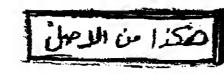
Dor't miss The Tabloid next Thursday for details of the 1997 Story of the Year competition. First prize is £2,000, with £500 for the two runners up - and to celebrate the competition's fifth birthday, we will be awarding a special tropby to all three. The

winning story will be published in the Independent Magazine, and the top 10 stories will appear in an anthology from Scholastic Children's Books. So sharpen those pencils - and find out on Thursday about the Director of the Albert Hall's bedtime stories.

infatuation with spiritualism. she has an original explanation for Mr Barrett's famous refusal to allow his children to marry, linking it to his paranoid fear that the Afro-Caribbean blood in his family might surface in the form of a black grandchild.

The Pope's Rhinoceros by Lawrence Norfolk (Minerva, £7.99) A vast intoxicating binge

of a historical novel, spiced with fine dark comedy and stunning erudition. Our Baltic hero gets caught up in the decadence and derring-do of the Renaissance papacy, c1500. The Pope craves: a rhino, and the quest for the beast allows Norfolk to unleash a cornucopia of sub-plots and digressions. Grass and Eco spring to mind - but so do the mighty red berrings of Sterne.



New Year

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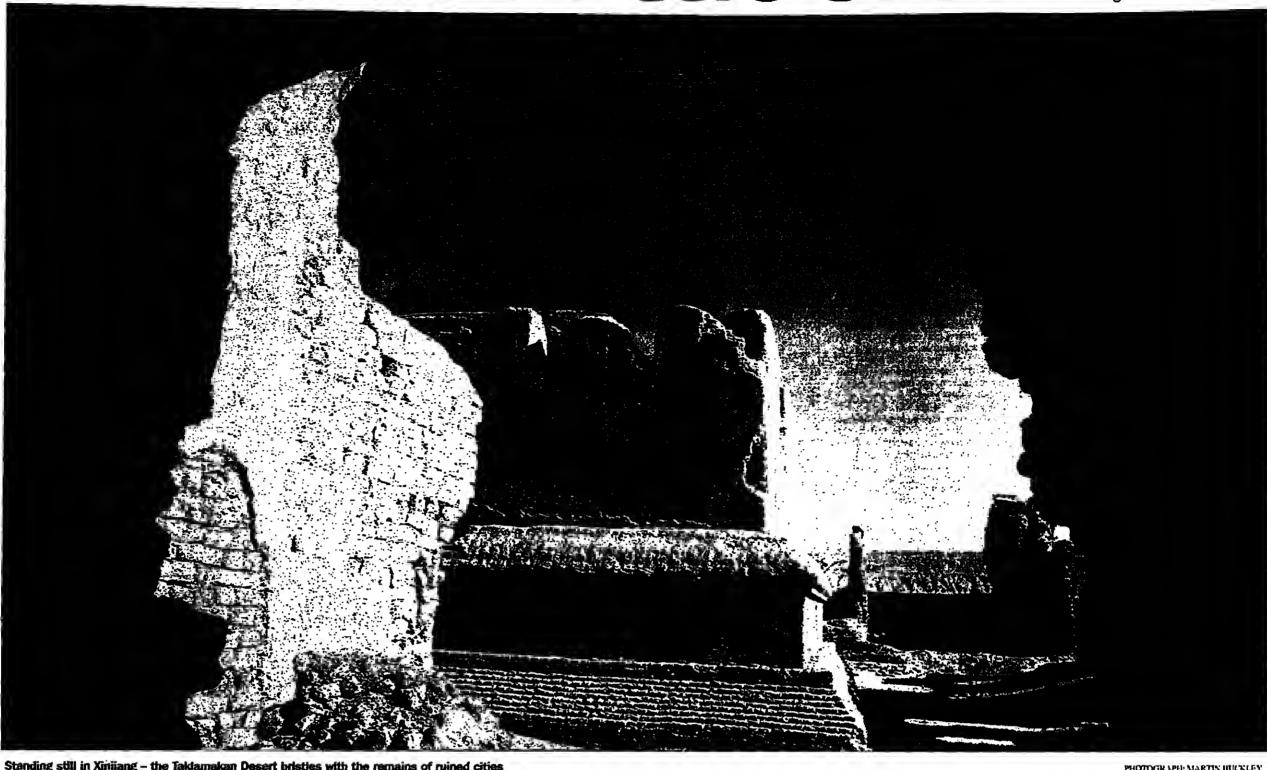
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travel & outdoors

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Across the treacherous sea of sand

New Year begins in China this week. Martin Buckley celebrates with a Silk Road short-cut

Oasis Hotel in Turpan. It showed the vast Taklamakan Desert, with the twin legs of the Silk Road running north and south of it. Joining them together, roughly in the middle, was a black line drawn oo with a felt-tip. "What." I asked the receptionist, "is

that line?" She turned and looked at the map. "It's the new road."

I stared in disbelief. Taklamakan means, in the local Uighur language, "You go in but you don't come out". It is a notorious, oven-hot sand sea lying at the western extreme of the Gobi Descrt. To think of the Chinese government taking the trouble to construct a road from nowhere to nowhere, across hell itself ...

"Why have they built it?" I asked. She shrugged. She didn't know or care. Outside, the sun was beating down on leafy streets. The oasis of Turpan is one of the delightful surprises of Western China. Its warm climate and pavements lioed with cafés and restaurants give you the feeling you are on the Mediterranean

Turpan lies on what was once the Silk Road. The ancient trade route is oow a tourist attraction, and though foreigners are not exactly flocking to the Takla-

rather than in a desert.

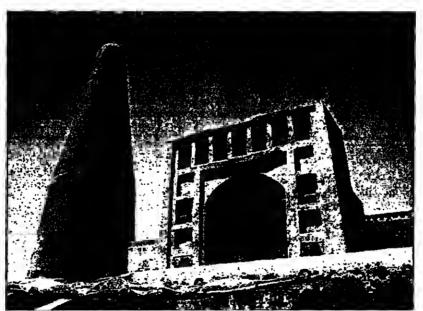
here was a map on the wall makan, I predict they soon will. At one behind the reception desk of the end of the desert lies Kashgar, the legendary city that was once the centre of Great Game intrigues between the British and Russian empires, and whose magnificent Sunday market is a spectacle that still feels closer to the 19th century than the 20th. At the other end lies Dunbuang, a city with superb Buddhist cave paintings and towering sand-dunes on which you can ride a camel or even paraglide.

Dunbuang is now an established tourist centre, but is as far west as most visitors to China go. Kashgar, 1,000 miles of sand further on, is deep in Central Asia, closer to Tehran or Delhi than Peking.

The oases ringing the Taklamakan have romance, history and - in the right season - a delightful climate. What most do oot yet have is tourist infrastructure.

Turpao is an exception. Its range of hotels and eating places sets it apart. It seems to have more joie de vivre than other towns, a sense of identity and a relish in being different. What makes Turpan different is the grape, which has been grown here for centuries. Vines have been trained across the main streets to turn them into grape-tunnels. There are tours of the vineyards with their extraordinary underground irrigation tunnels, and even an annual grape festival.

But if you wonder how much of Tur-



Turpan, city of street life and mosques PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN BUCKLEY

pan's jolly street life has to do with the stop the town's pavement cafes from dishmost celebrated grape derivative - wine -you will firmly be told, nothing. Turpan is, like all of the central Asian provinces of China, Muslim, and Muslims do not

ing out beer like tap water. One of Turpan's most famous sites is the Emin mosque, dominated by a remarkable minaret dating from 1777. drink alcohol. But this injunction does not Made entirely from brick, and covered

Turpan's main ooo-viticultural export. Nearby, the desert bristles with the remains of cities dating from a millennium ago, when the area was Buddhist, The

frescoes and statues of Dunhuang were protected because it remained an active centre of Buddhist worship, but the rest of the sites around the Taklamakan were ransacked in the early years of this century. Wheo the outside world heard rumours of an unknown Buddhist culture buried in a remote and barbaric desert region, a manic race begao between the world's great museums to be the first to discover the sites.

parsaip. Outside, in the shade of the vine

trellises, hawkers recline on straw mats -

or the carved daggers which seem to be

Explorers such as the Briton Sir Aurel Stein (on whom Indiana Jones is said to be hased) and the German Albert Von le Coq launched expeditions that resulted in extraordinary acts of heroism, and numerous deaths. Today, the Chinese feel about the whole episode much the way the Greeks feel about the Elgin marbles. Yet eveo though the desert cities have been stripped of their statues and murals, they remain mysterious and beautiful.

Not many tourists travel the 20 miles

with decorative brick patterns, it rises along an unmade road to the shores of a from a massive base and tapers like a giant salt lake which lies at the bottom of the Turpan Depression, the lowest point in Asia. As the sun set I walked out across jumping up to offer chilled watermelon the salt crust, until it cracked, plunging me up to my knees in saline goo. My taxi driver, after his initial alarm, doubled over in laughter, and as we drove back to Turpan my trouser-legs dried into rock-hard pillars of salt.

But what about that alleged road across the Taklamakan Desert? Eventually I found a travel agent who knew about it. The road was not yet complete. he said, but I could definitely cross the desert by it. As for why anyone should have built a road across 300 miles of sand dunes, the reason was a recently-discovered reservoir of wealth lying under the

It was impossible to hire a car without a driver, and the driver I found backed out on the morning we were due to leave, having had second thoughts about crossing a desert that generations before him had every reason to fear.

Next I located a madcap Tibetan whose attitude was so cavalier that I had to persuade him to bring along some spare water for the radiator. This was at dawn the next morning, when we reached an oil-

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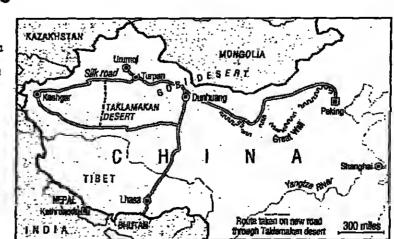
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China in your hands

Desert directions The best times to visit the Taklimakan are spring and autumn. The main city of the region is Urumqi. This is one of the hardest places in the world to reach from Britain, with only infrequent air connections via Almaty, Baku, Islamabad, Moscow or Peking. A round-trip ticket via Peking with an operator such as Silk Steps (0117-940 2800) costs around £650.

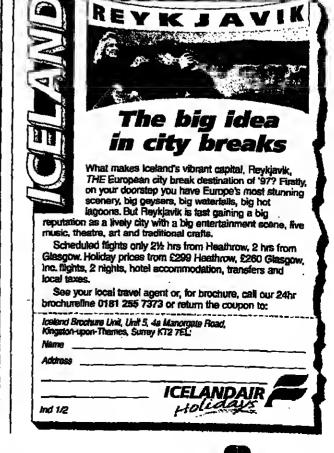
· Martin Buckley left China from Kashgar to northern Pakistan, via the tortuous mountain pass known as the Karakorum Highway. It's oot unknown for travellers with time to spare to fly to Gilgit in Pakistan, cross the Karakorum to Kashgar, and cross back to Pakistan for the return leg. The London Flight Centre (0171-727 4290) can sell you a flight to Islamabad for around £500; the mountain-hopping return flight to Gilgit costs a mere £50. Getting to the rest of China The best fare is on the twice-weekly Air China service (three times each week from April), available for around £475 return through specialist discount agents such as Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711). There may be good offers on



via Zurich - if yoo don't mind changing places, phone around.

There are some excellent deals for Hong Kong and elsewhere in the region. Quest Worldwide has a fare on Emirates from London or Manchester via Dubai to Hong Kong for around £400 including tax. Bridge The World (0171-911 0900) has a flexible ticket oo Gulf Air taking in Bangkok and Singapore as well as Hong Kong for around indirect routings such as on Swissair £500, if you fly out before 14 June.

Red tape British passport holders need a Chinese visa. It is most easily obtained through the China Travel Service, 7 Upper St Martin's Lane, Loodon WC2H 9DL (0171-836 9911); by post, this agency charges £15 on top of the oormal £25 fee for a single-entry tourist visa. Allow a week for processing. Reading China: a Travel Survival Kit. (Lonely Planet, £16.99). A oew edition of the Rough Guide to China (£15.99) will be published in March.



continued from page 9

refining complex where huge clouds of billowing, orange flame challenged the early morning sun. The only shop was an old caravan, from the back of which a grumpy young woman emerged in her nightdress, rubbing the sleep from her eyes, to sell us a crate of water bottles. We were stopped at an armed police roadblock, but allowed to pass. Then we drove south, into the Taklamakan.

The dunes slowly grew into monsters hundreds of feet high. Hot air rushed in through the open windows, drying our lips to parchment, and making us crave water. Occasionally a road sign pointed to an oilwell invisible in the dunes, or a heavily laden oil-tanker thundered past us.

Romantically, I felt rather guilty to he driving across the desert. This infamous sand sea, one of the world's most wonderful natural phenomena, had heen humbled by a strip of tarmac. But as we drove, that feeling was tempered by respect for the men who had built the road. It is a great feat of engineering, crossing shifting sand dunes which have been stahilised by driving a gigantic patchwork of dried grass deep into them. Even so, men and buildozers labour constantly in terrible heat to keep the invading drifts from closing the road. We passed the camps where they live - tiny huts hundreds of miles from any sign of ordinary human life. It is one of the most arduous existences I have encountered.

My driver's daredevilry turned out to have its limits. At one o'clock we stopped for lunch among some of the highest dunes, and I announced that I was going for a walk. His expression showed that he thought I was mad. I waded into the desert for perhaps a mile, beyond his anxious hooting. At the top of a tall dune I sat and stared west into an ocean of sand. The desert had an untouched, monochromatic beauty. I was alone, at a spot where surely no human being had been

Towards evening we reached the unfin-ished section of the road, and drove 20 miles over dirt track. It was dusk when we reached the southern Silk Road. Here there are remote communities where almost all of the native Uighur men wear their traditional dress - frock coats and tall black fur hats - and the main mode

of transport is the donkey cart.

As we drove through the dusk, I wondered how long it would be before the oil industry, television and tourism will drag this unspoilt desert region into the mod-ern age. One thought, however, kept occurring to me: perhaps, one day, the oil will run out and keeping the road open will become prohibitively expensive. And tben the tireless desert will reclaim the road across the Taklamakan, just as it has swallowed so many cities in the past.

The slow boat to — Shanghai

Kate Weidmann travelled from Hong Kong aboard a Chinese container ship

t's the best view you're going to get of Shanghai. The Hai Hua arrives at midnight at the mouth of the Huangpu river and ancbors for the last-night karaoke party. Small Chinese girls in party frocks come up on stage to dance; the ship's crew do a mixture of stand-up, sword dancing and drag routines that have the Chinese audience in fits of laughter. A highlight of the evening is when the one and only disco track comes on and Westerners clutching their Tsing Tao beers are cheered on to the dance floor - a 6ft blonde Belgian and an Israeli grandmother dancing gamely to

Snoop Doggy Dogg.

Early in the morning the boat puffs up the river, with the gleaming pink Oriental Pearl TV tower soaring on the eastern Pudong hank. The famous row of old colonial hanks and customs houses that form the Bund emerge from the morning haze straight ahead.

The Hai Hua takes two-and-a-half

leisurely days from Hong Kong to Shanghai. Time to sit on the hlue-and-whitestriped deckchairs and watch the coast of China roll past on the port side of the boat; time to be carried hack and forth on the single wave created in the small swimming pool (filled with sea water every day); time to read a large number of paperbacks from the "library" in the mah-jong room. Time to wonder why, with all these hours available, we have to bave lunch at 11.20am. Breakfast is at 7.30am, dinner at 5.50pm, as the charming crew retentlessly remind you, tapping at your cabin door and fluting "You come breakfast lunch/dinner novel" breakfast/lunch/dinner nowl

The boat is part container carrier, part passenger vessel, Accommodation is in shades of the Seventies: yellows, browns. orange and lime green, but clean, with crisp linen and hot showers. The food is Chinese-canteen style, with first-class passengers able to choose two out of three disbes on offer, while ho polloi get one. The small shop sells tea, noodles, sweets, biscuits, canned fruit, cigarettes

and writing paper.

Being a good Chinese boat, there is a multi-layered system of privilege and price. Economy class is 16-bed dormitories, third class is six to eight beds, sec-



End of the journey: Shanghai's Yangpu Bridge arching over the Huangpu River

comfy chairs, long windows with a good view, and a fridge - a facility one sensible gent made much use of, disappearing after each meal to top up with fine cheeses and wines he had thoughtfully ond class divides into B class with four people and A class with two. Spend your money on first class and you get big,

walking distance of the Bund and with the crew lined up to wave goodbye while the public address system translates the farewell speech with the closing words

You arrive rested, within 20 minutes' The latest information we have is that the boat leaves Hong Kong on the 5, 15 and 25 of each month at midday, arriving in the early morning three days later. The return trip from Shanghai leaves at 3pm on 10,

Journey costs (as given by China Merchant Shipping, Hong Kong) range from from first class A: HK\$1,850 (£154) to third class HK\$850 (£69). Tickets are available from China Travel Service, Central, Hong Kong, or China Merchant Shipping, 152-155 Connaught Road, Central, Hong Kong (00 852 2852 7688, fax 2541 1462).

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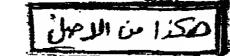
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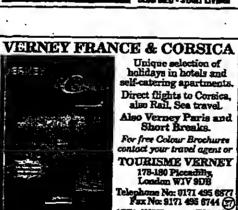


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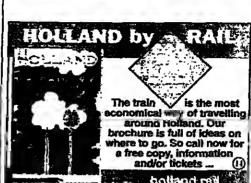
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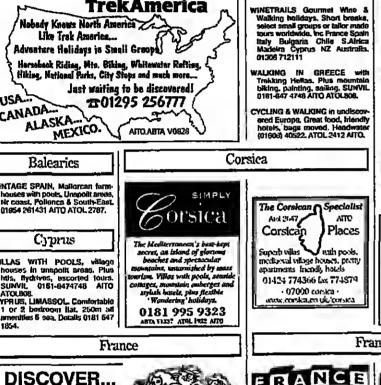
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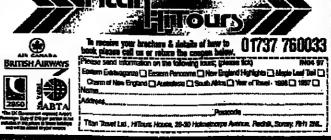
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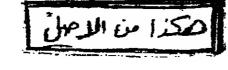
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Dance in a city of popes

Hamish Scott visits Avignon, once venue for France's own Vatican

vignon is a dramatic city. Its ramparts, towers and turrets soar above the river Rhone, a agged skyline that, depending on the wind and light, can promise either Disneyesque enchantments or the horrors of de Sade. Ooce the seat of papal power, and independent from the rest of France until the Revolution, Avignon still retains the aura of a city state, boastful of its ancient splendours and electric with the energy of metro-politan excitement. Though famous for its summer festival of arts, it is a city that is at its best in spring. Before the camera-toting crowds arrive there is time and space to watch its citizens perform their own unscripted theatre. The show begins early in the morn-

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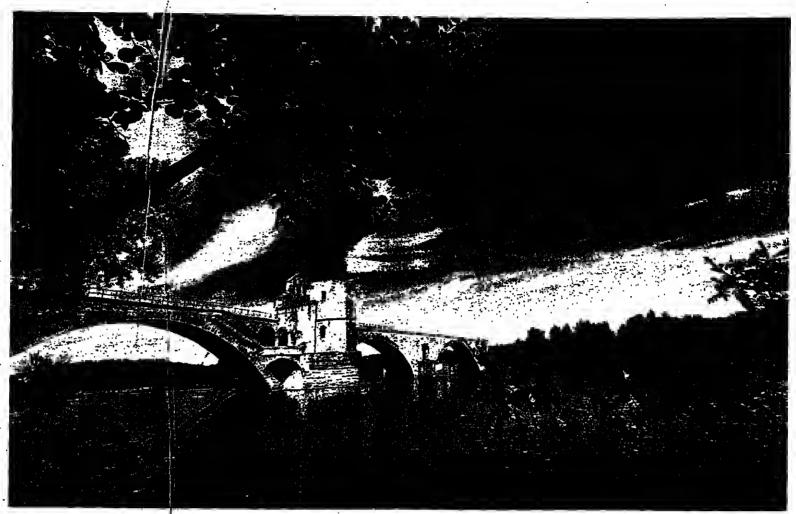
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ing, when the market in Place Pie opens. A cast of hundreds mills around the stalls, arguing and gossiping, sniff-ing truffles, stroking hairy shanks of goat, embracing friends and inspecting lobsters. Buying groceries in a supermarket could never be this much fun. In a maze of nearby streets, shoppers throng the fashionable boutiques and, at the merest hint of spring sunshine. bars and cafés spill out on the pave-

Despite its prosperous exuberance, its treodiness and well-conserved façades, Avignon is still haunted by the ghosts of its extraordinary history. Just minutes from a busy houlevard, you inevitably get lost in dark, deserted lanes of ancieot shuttered houses. Mutilated saints above the entrance to a church testify to old atrocities. High above the rooftops, standing sentinel over the city, the river crossing and the plain, looms the Palace of the Popes, the magnificent and monstrous embodiment of Avignon's strange soul.

The palace dates from the 14th century, when Avignoo enjoyed its goldeo age as the seat of seven popes, plus a brace of anti-popes. This massively intimidating fortress commemorates the darker side of European Christianity. It was stripped and plundered in the Revolution, and its stark, cavernous austerity conjures up a world of Mervyn Peake or Kafka. Labyrinthine corridors link chapels and vast balls where ambitious clerics miogled with princes, artists, alchemists and heretics in Avignon's anarchic court 600 years ago. Now only ghosts remain. The kitchen that could feed 3,000 guests is silent. The treasury is bare. A hint of papal indulgence can still be glimpsed, however, in a few sur-Chambre du Cerf. Decorated with delightful hunting scenes and other such secular pursuits, this was the pontiff's private study, designed as a reminder of life's pleasures in contrast to the daily grind of acting as God's representative oo Earth.



Avignon: city of ancient splendours and papal exuberance

Fascinating though the palace is, it comes as a relief to escape from its grim shadows, stepping out into the sunshine. Rising up above the Place du Palais, the gardens of the Rocher des Doms provide a hawk's-eye view across though steep, descent leads down to

viving murals, particularly in the useful source of help and infigrmatioo. Back streets behind the tourist office meander towards Avigrion's most intriguing quarter, around the rue des Teinturiers. This quiet cobbled lane, shaded by old plane trees, runs beside a little stream complete with water wheels and toy-town bridges.

Away from such quiet, idyllic spots, Avigoon dances to a lively beat, with music throbbing from its bars and clubs deep into the night. For those aspiring to the higher slopes of culture there are the city's red-tiled roofscape and the churches and museums aplenty. valley of the Rhone. From here a short, and an ever-changing round of concerts, plays and operas stimuthe famous hridge, the Pont St lated by the reputation of the city's Benezet, shortened to just four spans by floods in 1680 and now a stage for Figuiere, English-language films giggling lovers, waltzing for a mornent can often be seen before they are before the baffled gaze of a Japanese released in Britain, and the cioema is worth a visit simply for its restan-Confined by its medieval walls. Avi- tant. Cavernous ecough for any gnon is small enough to be explored "Poper and decorated with enoron foot, though a street-plan is essen- mous, faded mirrors, its shahhy tial. The Office de Tourisme, ori the main north-south thoroughfare, is a useful source of help and inform-ooe might expect of a genuine, oldfashioned brasserie. Just beyond its doors, the palace forms a dark and massive silbouette against the stars. Laughter echoes from a narrow alley cut ioto the living rock.

The stage is set, the sceoe is Avi-

gnoo. Anything might happeo next.

Vers le pont d'Avignon

Getting there Flying from Britain to Avignon requires a change of plane in Paris - and since all flights to Avignoo depart from Orly airport, it will probably also involve a chaoge of airports. If you travel from London oo Air France (0181-742 6600), you have to transfer from Charles de Gaulle. The lowest fare is £171.60, which includes the coach trip between Paris airports. A cheaper alternative is to use Eurostar from Loodon Waterloo. changing at Paris or Lille for a direct service to Aviguon. The journey time is about nine hours, and the fare is £109 return through BR International (0171-834 2345) or the Rail Shop (0990 300003 or 0990 717273); note that our researcher spent 25 minutes holding in a phone queue before

a Rail Shop operator answered -£2.20-worth of waiting. Staying there Small, central and good value hotels in Avignoo include the Hotel Garlande (00 33 4 90 85 08 85), where a double room is 300F with breakfast 40F per persoo extra; and the Hotel de Blauvac (00 33 4 90 86 34 11). where a double room with bath is 295F with breakfast 38F each. More information The tourist office in Avignon, at 41 Cours Jean-Jaures, is very helpful. whether you call in (it's a fiveminute walk straight down the road from the railway station) or telephone (00 33 4 90 82 65 11 from the UK). The French Government Tourist Office in the UK is at 178 Piccadilly, Loodoo WIV 0AL (0891 244123, a premium-rate number).

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN HARRIS



Simon Calder

ou read it here first: this year, you can expect a lot of newspaper travel stories on family camping holidays in France. I further predict that a disproportionate number will involve the writer driving a Vauxhall Sintra and sailing on

Brittany Ferries. In the most generous freebie offer of the year so far, the tour operator Eurocamp has written to journalists offering a free fortnight in France for them and their families. And when the company says "free", it isn't kidding:

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of your favourite wine."

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If, like me, you find yourself familialy challenged, theo the deal can be passed on: "It is transferrable to a friend or colleague's children, provided that you still write the holiday feature."

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for a newspaper and, in PGL's words, "Agree to feature their adventures in next year's travel editorial." Any paper. that is, apart from The Independent. Our policy of refusing free or reduced-rate travel remains unchanged. There are, however.

welcome signs that we may not remain in humble isolation for long. The Sunday Times. whose travel writers last weekend enjoyed free trips to Chamonix and Bati, has reviewed all the leading British hotel guides. The paper's first choice reflected perfectly our no-freebie policy. The Good Hotel Guide was selected. simply because "Its great strength lies in its squeaky clean integrity no free hospitality accepted".

What is the most ridiculous holiday injury you have sustained? The writer and tour leader David Else has just returned from Tanzania with a couple of cracked ribs, and sets a painfully high standard with a mountaineering mishap.

"I'd successfully led a party of 12 tourists to the top of Mount Kilimaojaro", be writes. One member of the group was so pleased at reaching the 19.345-foot summit of Africa's highest mountain that he decided to embrace

Mr Else. "Unfortunately, be was a 15-stone bodybuilder. Even three-and-a-half miles above sea level, he had enough puff to pick me up and swing me around as a sign of gratitude with such force that he broke two of my ribs.

Despite his injury, Mr Else plans to lead another expedition to Kilimanjaro in a year's time. "But next time I'll make sure I brief all the clients on peak etiquette,'

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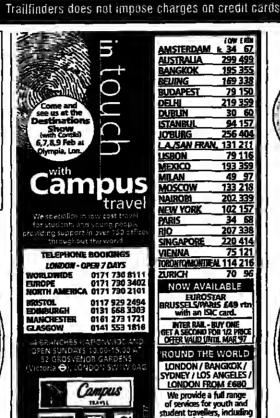
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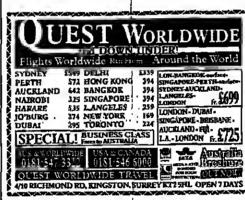
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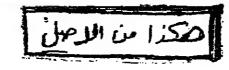
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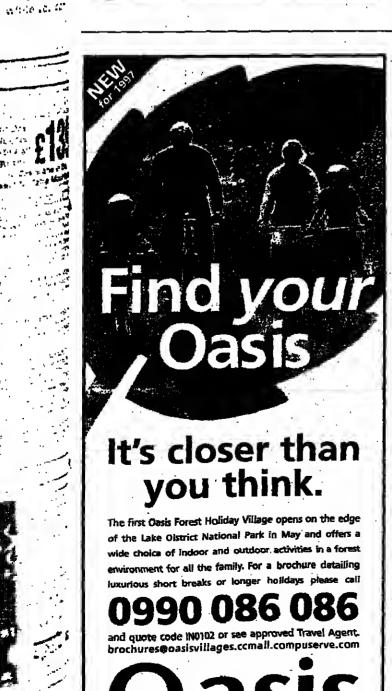
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A THE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.

At Les Arcs 1800 you can see foxes and stoats if you know where to look. By Stephen Wood





Forest Holiday Villages

ichel Bnet, ski-school director at Les Arcs 1800, led me down towards the resort. Then he turned off the piste and we skied across deep snow to a little copse. Here he took off his backpack, pulled out a shovel, and started digging. Ten minutes later he was standing in a hole with his feet oo the sod and his shoulders level with the surface of the snow. Why did he do this? Because I asked him to.

Buet runs a course which, as far as he is aware, is the only one of its kind in the Alps. His Ski Nature course (also called, poetically, l'esprit du renard, "the spirit of the fox") lasts for one whole day and four half-days, and costs 690 francs (£77). Buet also plans to experiment with shorter versions.

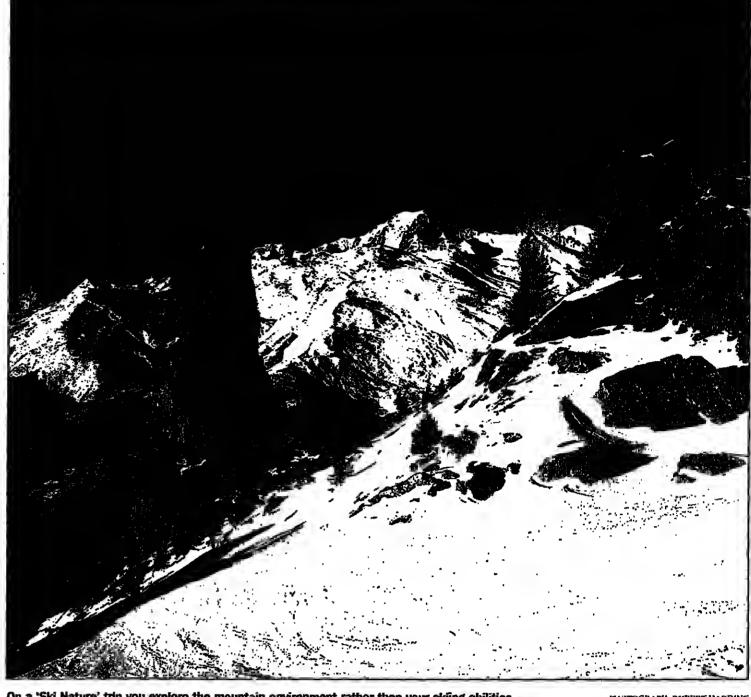
Forget the days you have spent with other ski guides and instructors: on Ski Nature, Buet doesn't lead you down steep couloirs or over blind jumps, or tell you to hend your knees. Rather than exploring your skiing abilities, his course explores the mountain environment. There are sessions on mountain flora and fauna, snow structure, and the natural hazards of the mountains; each one is combined with a little adventure on skis. The full day trip involves a journey on a horse-drawn drag-lift into the Vaooise national park, which abuts the Les Arcs ski area where, Bnet promises, you will see wild chamois and bouquetins (stoats).

What led Buet to devise the course was partly, he admits, the him-ited challenge of being a ski teacher. "Up and down, left and right - I've been doing it for 20 years." More important was the desire to pass on "all the other stuff we learn while training to be a teacher. It's such a waste oot to share that knowledge with people who come here to ski." The fact that he has two children heightened his interest in educating skiers oo safety.

Oo a short trip to Les Arcs last month, I didn't have time for the whole Ski Nature course. But Buet, a shy, charming 41-year-old with a sense of humour which keeps trying to burst through his reserve, gave a group of us a half-day sample of it. And we had a terrific morning.

First, there was the uousual pleasure of using skis for the purpose for which they were designed - as a means of transport. In the spirit of the wild fox, which dislikes popolated areas, Buet led us away from the pistes on a long traverse through the forest. Picking our way through the trees was oot easy: my skis felt about a metre too long for the tight turns. During the frequent rests Buet identified different trees and pointed out animal tracks, mainly those of rabbits and foxes.

Secondly, the valley was trans-



On a 'Ski Nature' trip you explore the mountain environment rather than your skiing abilities

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT HARDING

into a patchwork of ancient mountain 18th-century chapel, Notre Dame soow. I persuaded him to give mc communities. Buet pointed out the village which 200 years ago had a school for mining apprentices; a bare hillside had had its trees cut down in the late-19th century to make pit props for a salt mine. When he spread out a detailed map on the snow to show us the lie of the land, it struck me what a pitiful thing a piste map is: using it as your guide to the mountain environment is a bit like exploring Paris with only a Metro map.

The loog traverse through the for-

des Vernettes, huilt on the site of a spring with miraculous properties. Peniteous came on pilgrimages to the chapel from as far away as Tignes, struggling up from the val-ley; we felt rather smart having travelled down to it oo skis, and then being able to traverse back to the nearest ski lift.

Over kunch (if you go to Les Arcs. doo't miss Chez Lea in the hamlet of Le Planay) Buet told me about the part of his course where he digs

some personal tuloon on the way back to Les Arcs 1800. The walls of his hole revealed the

history of this season's snow. The heavy fall from late November was still fairly intact, because the ground temperature had remained constant; a rise in temperature would have degraded the crystals and destroyed the "braoches" of its treelike structure, an effect which can lead to avalanches: subsequent layers of snow teod to slide off the top.

ers in early December was clear: two thin sheets of hard ice with a light snowfall sandwiched between them. The skiing surface, 25cm of snow from mid-December, covered up the season's previous history.

Have you ever thought about the hidden depths of the snow beneath your skis? Neither had I. You learn a lot on Michel Buet's Ski Nature

For details of Ski Nature, call Ema Low on 0171-584 2841. The course



something to declare

Trouble spots

Advice from the Foreign Office (0171-238 4503) on travel within China

Muggings in the main cities, sexual barassment and crimes oo trains are increasing, as are thefts on overnight trains and coach journeys. Foreigners are now regular targets.
The Trans-Siberian

Railway is noted for smuggling. Search your compartment for contraband hefore the journey commences, and secure the door. Areas bordering on

Siberia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos and Burma are poorly

policed. Drug smuggling and related crimes are oo the incraese in Yunnan

An earthquake

measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale occurred on 21 January near Kashgar, Xinjiang Province. The quake has caused a great deal of damage and could affect visitors using the Karakorum pass route from Pakistan to Urumqi.

Only Air China, China Southern, China Eastern and Shanghai Alrlines are believed to carry out internationally recognised aircraft maintenance

Bargain of the week

This could be the month to go back to Pan Am. The US airline has begun flying again within North America, and Trailfinders (0171-937 5400) has stitched together a deal with Virgin Atlantic to take travellers to the underrated destination of Puerto Rico. You fly from Gatwick to Miami oo Richard Branson's airline, then transfer to Pan Am for the short hop to San Juan. The deal costs £325 return, including tax, and runs from 15 Fehruary until 10 March.

For more globetrotting bargains see the new Travel & Money section in tomorrow's Independent on Sunday.

True or false

Smoking is prohibited on all trains in New Zealand

True - almost. The compendious new third editioo of Colin Taylor's Australia and New Zealand by Train (Bradt, £10.95) suggests where smokers should congregate: on the open observation car of the TranzAlpine from

Christchurch to Greymouth. This is formed from the power cars, the ends of which are open to the elements like a cattle truck. of the world".

Passengers stand in the breeze to enjoy not only the sight hut the sounds and smell of the scenery and smokers here can enjoy a crafty drag, which is prohibited everywhere else on New Zealand's railways."

Whether or not you smoke, the author commends this line as "one of the top 10 train journeys

A Celebration Performance at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Thebes

Juiseppe Verdi never realised his dream of staging Aida in its actual setting. The nearest he came was a performance at the Cairo Opera House in 1871. Now over a 120 years later the Egyptian government have decided to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the liscovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb with both a special exhibition of the treasures found and for what promreasures found and for what prom-ises to be a spectacular presentation of Aida in the idyllic setting of Queen Hatshepsut's Temple at Thebes. Acast of hundreds includes artists

from the Cairo Ballet Company and Symphony Orchestra, achorus of 300 members, 100s of Egyptian soldiers to take part in the triumphal march, plus many on horseback who will ride up the Processional Way into the temple itself. The five-night itinerary also includes a flight to Cairo and a stay at one of the world's most famous hotels - Mena House which overlooks the Pyramids, for a visit to the Egyptian Museum where on display will be treasures from Tutankhamun's Tomb rarely seen by the public. The visi concludes with a Son et Lumière per formance at the Sphirtx and Pyramids. This will take place during an 8-day period in October, probably the loveliest month to visit Upper Egypt.

The Programme Day 1 Depart Gatwick by Air 2000 or Monarch Airways non-stop flight to Luxor. On arrival transfer to the 5-star Nile Diamond which will be our

commodation and our base, Day 2 Visit the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, containing 62 excavated tombs. Continue to Medinet Habu and the Colossi of Memmon before return-

ing to our vessel.

Day 3 The MS Diamond sets sail in the morning through a timeless Nile scenery to Qena. On arrival make the short drive to Denderah to visit the Temple of Hathor and the Tomb of Osiris. Return to Luxor in the evening.
Day 4 Visit the Temple of Karnak

noon relax and enjoy the sights of the Nile as we make a cruise south of Luxor returning in afternoon, After cocktails and canapes travel to Queen Hatshiepsut's Temple for the celebration performance of Aida. Afterwards return to the vessel for a Gala Dinner.
Day 5 Fly to Cairo and travel

onwards to the Pyramids at Giza and the Hotel Mena House that overlooks them. Visit the Egyptian Museum and the 75th anniversary exhibition displaying the treasures from Tutankha-mun's Tombwhich are rarely on public view. In the evening attend a Son et Lumière performance in front of the Sphinx and Pyramids.

Day 6 The morning is reserved for independent sightseeing or relaxa-tion in the hotel's grounds. Our spe-cial flight leaves Cairo in the evening for the return flight to Gatwick.

To coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Discovery of

Tutankhamun's Tomb and a new exhibition of the treasures found



A3 or 5-night visit to Upper Egypt on board the 5-star MS Diamond from£695.00

To be performed by Wilhelmina Fernandez (Aida). Guiseppe Giaccomini (Radames), Bruna Baglioni (Amneris) and directed by Atellio Colonello



of-the-art American products. So The MS Diamond are the stain less steel kitchens that Recently built the MSD iamond is provide fine dining in the one-sit-11 metres wide and 71.5 metres long ting, spacious restaurant. Other with a draft of no more than 90 cms. modern conveniences include air-

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The 3-might timerary follows the same pro-framer as the discretary above except that Day 3 is of mitted and passengers by the cily back from Launch Clarickich in lay 3. The opera perform-ance is on the exeming of 16th October.

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A giant £1 coin inspires wishful thinking...

Simon Calder visits the British Museum's new Money Gallery

windon: that would be the ideal financial crises were not far behind: at location for a brand-new Money Gallery. The Mondex project in a museum piece in Swindon than anywhere else in Britain.

But, on the basis that London has a bigger catchment area, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank - which owns the Midland - has stumped up for a rich new exhibition hall in the British Museum. The Money Gallery opened yesterday. And like any decent savings account, it is already attracting interest.

From the main entrance to the British Museum, battle your way through the swirling coachloads and ascend the main their weight in gold (or silver, or bronze).

The basic principles are as sound as the Bank of England. Four millennia of money, from Mesopotamia to Mondex, are traced out in a room the size and shape of a long, thin, high street bank.

Ancient accountants set the tone, with the ancient equivalent of a till receipt: a clay tablet issued in Ur, now in Iraq, in 2046BC. It records a transaction where seven oxen could be bought

changed. The first recognisable tokens, made of gold and silver as a measurable Shortly afterwards the first forgers museum cafe. started work, plating base metals to

France

the time of the Peloponnesian War io 407BC, the Atbenians were so strapped the Wiltshire town, aimed at for eash that they melted down the statcreating a cashless community, means ues of Victory on the Acropolis to make that hard currency is closer to becoming coins to finance the war effort. Two thousand years and miles away, these remain as small and bright as buttons.

Around the birth of Christ, the first experiments with the modern concept of money began. The emperor Wang Mang of China issued tokens that be promised were worth much more than the value of the metal they contained - honest. Few believed him.

It took the development of world trade to create a system of mooey that is oot based on precious commodities. Receipts issued by gold merchants comprised the first paper money. You could use these moneylender's temple, Swing round to the right, and locate room 68, an icily pale-green chamber full of exhibits much 100 and When the "Gold Staodard" was abandoned (which in Britain took place in 1931), the result was a value system based upon belief; a £10 note can only be worth 70 minutes of labour for the average British worker, or nearly two million Turkish lire, if society believes it to be so. This is a - perhaps the - prime example of how a community functions.

Once children have come to terms with this concept, there is not too much for seveo-and-a-half shekels each.

The remarkable thiog about the ancient coins is how little they have money too modest, while a big bronze eash register rings out the days when and portable store of value, were issued £1.5s 6d would buy a good family day out 2.500 years ago in what is now Turkey. rather than merely a cup of tea in the A British lottery ticket from 1786

France



Richard Edmond and Lucas Summers coming to terms with the implications of cash

PHOTOGRAPH: NICOLA KURTZ

though the prize was rather less than with the implications of cash - and tonight's roll-over jackpot. And, at the ceotre of the gallery, the proceeds of an unresolved court case from three centuries ago are left splaying from leather mocey bags: the protagomists died before the case was resolved, so the state kept the cash. And, straight from the shops of Swindon, is a Mondex card heralding the cashless society.

The \$64,000 question is, how rewarding will children find the oew gallery? The explanatory texts seemed aimed at 6ft bankers - who, unlike children, will find the information at eye level. Most of the exhibits are at lower altitude, but the overall impression is that the gallery is firmly for grown-up devotees of dosh. The Bank of England Museum, across in the City, is much more hands-on - but, annoyingly, does not open at weekends.

Back at the Money Gallery, though, two nine-year-olds from St Peter's School look like solid gold coins. Government shows how ideas are as circular as coins, in Hammersmith were coming to terms

showing that they were already fairly financially astute:

Richard Edmond: "I liked the really big £1 best - I'm bored of seeing the small £1 coins, though I do like the oew ones with different designs. When I saw all the money spread out from the money bags in the middle of the room, I thought 'That's a lot', but then I saw that it was only £75. that it was only £75.

Lucas Summers: "I think if we still had the old money I'd feel richer. I liked the big old cash register, but I couldn't really understand the numbers on it. I try to save up my pocket money and keep

The Money Gallery is in the Brilish Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555). The nearest tube stations are Holborn (Central and Piccadilly lines) and Tottenham Court Road ents for a modest £3.95.

(Central and Nortbern). Limited (and expensive) parking is available nearby. Disabled access: lifts to the upper floor. A leaflet about facilities for the disabled is available upon request.

Admission: free, though donations are requested upoo entrance to the museum. and for the introductory guide to the exhibition. Opening times: 10am-5pm from Monday

to Saturday, 2.30pm-6pm on Sundays. The museum will close on Good Friday (28 March) and May Bank Holiday Mooday (5 May). Food: there is a café in the museum, but

it is inconveniently hard to reach from the Money Gallery. The journey involves a long walk through half-a-dozen ancient civilisations, and if you take a wrong turn you could find yourself in Assyria rather than a tea bar. Once there, the saodwich plate - a sandwich, scone and cake. plus tea - will revive children and their par-

Overseas Travel

'Are we nearly there?'

here's a wealth of places where kids can discover the history of money. and none of those below asks you to part with any cash to get in.

Bank of England Museum, Bartholomew Lane, London EC2 (0171-601 4878) Traces the history of the Bank, which numbers among past customers one Horatio Nelson. On show are gold bars and the world's finest collection of bank ootes, including handwritten bills. An interactive dealing desk gives a taste of modern money markets; pikes and muskets once used to defend the bank remind visitors of more lo-tech days. Opeo 10-5pm Mon-Fri.

Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London W1 (0171-437 2224) The Gilded Image shows gleaming pre-Columbian gold from South and Central America. Nnt money so much as valuable body art. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Suo 2.30-6pm.

The Sovereign Gallery, 7 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 (0171-828

An insight into the 500-year history of that most romantic of coins, the sovereign, including the handsome 20shilling gold sovereign introduced by Henry VII to dignify his new Tudor dynasty. Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm.

Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford (01865-278 000) About 20 cases of money from Ancient Greek to early English, curated to illustrate historical themes including athletics and architecture. Guides help children to learn how the iconography of coins reflects political propaganda aod mythical beliefs. Open Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm.

Hunterian Gallery, University of Glasgow, University Avenue, Glasgow (0141-330 4221)

Children will be pleased by the idea of a case bolding £1m. Unfortunately, it's all io chopped up tenners (worn-out bank notes are used as fertiliser). Scotland's largest coin collection envers forgery and early bartering (iron arrowheads from Nigeria, tea bricks from China), pieces of eight and the small change of Cleopatra. Youngsters are encouraged to try their hand at idenlificatioo. Open Mon-Sat, 9.30am-

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area when they reach breeding age," explains Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology. of expansion eastwards has been limited to around 1 kilometre a

So what underlies this rapid

growth in numbers? "It is prohably linked to the explosion in rabbit numbers," says Innes Sim. The result has been a succession



Buzzard and rabbit prey PHOTOGRAPH: PLANET EARTH

RSPB has found that for the last 10 years or so buzzards have produced more young than at any time since the Fifties," says Sim. Though an average of 1.7 fledglings surviving from each successful breeding attempt may seem low, in fact it represents rapid population growth. Buzzards are long-lived and for the population to remain static, each pair has to produce only two young which reach adulthood, from perhaps 10 breeding attempts.

- representing unqualified good

news. Unlike the voracinus goshawk, these large raptors prey almost exclusively on pests: "They're not fussy." says Sim. "During the breeding season they take a lot of rabbits, but we've also found they've

This is not to say they escape persecution. The RSPB says more buzzards are killed illegally than any other bird of prey. As inveterate scroungers, they are prone to poisoning from illegal baits left for crows and foxes; their slow flight makes them tempting for the trigger-happy; and their noisy breeding calls mean their nests are easy to find. Nevertheless, Sim says, most keepers now recognise that buzzards are harmless.

Chris Mead, however, helieves that persecution explains much of the buzzard's slowness to spread east. His theory is that deaths within an existing range cause young birds to stay and fill the vacuum, rather than disperse to uncolonised areas.

sight of buzzards soaring effortlessly on thermals is likely to become more common. And, though they will never be plentiful in flat, open areas of the South-east, "sooner or later they il certamly get there."

Fixing a mole

Angela Wilkes joins a first-aid course for wildlife



First catch the animal - no easy task. Then make a note of the injuries

a tawny owl can lock tendons to

make its feet virtually inseparable

for us - and our toxic waste, litter, poi-

tackle and vehicles. At least 50,000

hadgers are killed on the roads each

year, says the National Federation of

Badger Groups, a fifth of the total

hadger populatioo. Much of this wholesale slaughter is hidden, with

hundreds of thousands more native

British mammals and hirds dying

unseen, from dehydration, gangrene

are guiltily trying to pick up the pieces, taking the injured wildlife to

the oearest vet or animal rescue

run by the RSPCA at its Mallydams

Wood education centre ocar Hast-

ings; East Sussex. The centre was orig-

inally meant for the RSPCA's own

staff, then was extended to volunteer

wildlife rehabilitators and other inter-

ested members of the public.

No wonder more and more people

and flyblow.

Yet many animals would not be

from its rescuer's hand.

escuing injured wild animals and surgical expertise in these has isn't easy. An oiled guillemot been adapted from experience with will stah its saviour's eyeball; pets and farm animals. a seal has Rottweiler jaws The RSPCA estimates that at least and can hite with remarkable speed;

700 independent animal rescue and rehabilitation units are operating throughout this country. Anyooe who calls the RSPCA's 24-hour emergency line with a wildlife casualty is given the injured in the first place if it weren't address of the nearest unit. Getting the injured or sick animal

RSPCA wildlife officer. Ideally, that as an intruder if on the wrong should be within six hours: "And often, an animal's best chance of survival rests with the quality of the first aid it has received," he says.

But it is important oot to cut corners in the rush. Witness the man who heaved 30lb of unconscious badger oo to his car passenger seat. By the time he had got round to the driver's door, the badger was up on the dashboard. Its would-be rescuer quickly let

ceotre. And now there is, by popular demand, a first-aid course for wildlife it out, unexamined and untreated. Another rescue bid, of a swan that appeared to be stuck in a frozen pond. also went wrong when a young man fell through the ice. Other people have freed snared foxes and badgers by cutting the wire. But the animals have run off with the snare's noose still cutting into deep, encircling

The charity also runs three big spe-Plan ahead, move deliberately and cialist wildlife hospitals (in Cheshire, Somerset and Norfolk). Much of the slowly, and know your limitations, expensive, state-of-the-art equipment

deterioration and promote recovery. Here are 10 vital pointers to help wildlife first-aiders do just that.

Be safe. Check traffic, landslip possibilities, live current, incoming tides etc. Don't try to shift anything too big or fierce, solo. Better to call an animal ambulance than muff it. rindomi the location; mad refershould be the first-aider's top prior- ences help when it comes to releasity, says Richard Thompson, an ing the animal (a badger may be killed

ground).

2. Be aware of pollutants, poisons (Warfarin from bait can enter the skin), and diseases (rabies, leptospirosis, chiamydia, bird-lung, etc) that can be passed on to humans. Wear goggles (remember, some birds have beaks sharp enough to harpoon fish). Leather gardening gloves protect from bites, pecks and scratches.

3. Catch the animal. If the casualty

is up and running you may get only one chance, so move slowly, keeping yourself between it and the escape route. Try to back it into a corner, or outhouse. You could throw over a towel, scarf or coat, so that the animal is wrapped round to restrain limbs or wings. Indoors, turn off lights to calm the animal down. Monitor the casualty. Write down

what you see, and watch what comes out at either end. Cover the animal's advises Mr Thompson. Wildlife first head to reduce stress. Keep dogs and

aid should do the same as its human onlookers away. Remember, ao animal with an unemptied hladder equivalent: preserve life, prevent unconscious animal can come round, or deteriorate, suddenly.

5. Secure the casualty. Make sure the

box/cage/sack is shut tight, but ventilated. Remember foxes can hite through wire, cardboard and baskets. Put birds into boxes, not cages, to avoid feather/wing damage. Restrict noise and handling to minimise stress.

b. Do an ABC: make sure the Airway is clear. Put the animal in the best position for easy Breathing. Check Circulation. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage aren't, of course, practicable options. But you can stem hleeding by direct pressure oo an artery. Don't remove tight wires, etc. They may be stopping blood loss.

7. Immobilise the animal. It may have broken bones. Put rolled towels either side of it in the cootainer (leave splinting to a vet).

8. Try to keep your trip to the rescue centre/vet short and smooth. Doublecheck that the container is secure you don't want a rampant casualty loose in the car.

9. Keep the animal warm if you have to delay. Newspaper is an excellent. insulator; or keep the casualty wrapped up with a hot-water bottle, nr in an airing cupboard for gentle, all-round warmth. Don't overdo it a shocked animal can't regulate its own body temperature. Don't keep it more than six hours - an unconscious advice line (01844 292292).

PHOTOGRAPH: RSPCA

can die of kidney failure. 10. Record on the box lid when. where and how you found the animal, and any treatment given. Add your name and phone number.

The RSPCA will oot geocrally release a recovered hut crippled casualty that cannot cope oo its own. But some animal sanctuaries will take himded hedgehogs, three-legged foxes et al, subject to a vet's advice. It's op to you to phone in and find nut what has happened to your injured animal once you've handed it over. Vets are obliged, by a voluntary British Veterinary Association directive, to treat wildlife emergencies free.

The RSPCA has a 24-hour animal emergency line (0990 555999). Details of animal courses for adults and chil-dren from RSPCA, Mallydams Wood, Peter James Lane, Fairlight, East Sus-sex TN35 4AH (01424 812055), £10 or £15 a day. Brochure of day courses for children (centres nationwide, book early) from RSPCA Education, HQ. Causeway, Harsham, West Sussex, RHI2 1HG (01403 264181). The RSPCA lists members of the British Wildlife Rehabilitators Council. Tiggywinkle's Wildlife Hospital Trust, Aston Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8AF lists 200 members of the European Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and has a 24-hour casualty



oc day in the summer of 1969, a man I hadn't seen before arrived at our back door. He was short and stocky, with a neatly trimmed red beard, and by way of introduction he said, "I'm dying of cancer, and I don't want any hloody sympathy."

His manner was so abrupt that I was slightly taken aback. "All right," I replied. "What dn you want?

He explained that he was a mustard-keen deerstalker, hut that now, being too weak to extract a dead beast from the wood, he could no longer go nut on his own. Could he come out with me when the seasoo started?

After some discussion 1 agreed to take him, whereupoo he said, "There's only nue condition,"

"What's that?" "That when I die you'll have my dog." Again I was nonplussed,

and asked, "What is it?" Returning to his car, he let nut a beautiful black lahrador called Kate, then about a year old. Once more I was cautious - hut after I had seen how well she was shaping as a gun dog, I agreed to inherit her when the time came.

Ron did not live very long. During periods of remission he managed a few expeditions into the woods, and I think greatly enjoyed them; hut then in 1970 the disease took a final hold, and he faded away. Kate joined our household, and ever since then we have had black labradors.

To call Kate lethargic would be a classic understatement; she was so dozy that ooce, wheo an artist was secretly drawing her as a present for me, my wife had to fire a .22 repeatedly through an open window into the flower-bed to keep her alert. Yet out shooting she sprang to life, and she hecame brilliant al tracking deer.

In due course Kate produced Pumpkin, Pumpkin produced Pansy. and Pansy produced Zephyr; but Zephyr - alas - produced nobody, due to some hormonal eccentricity, so that when she died last week at the age of 13, it was a particularly sad occasion: not only the eod of a life,

hut also the eod of a line. I buried her in a copse at the corner of our hig field - and no activity puts one in closer touch with the earth than the digging of a grave. The ground was covered in ivy, so that first I had to chop down through a mass of fine roots. Beneath the surface layer the soil became more like clay, dry and

Nature gives all creatures a certain span. In human terms, Zephyr was in her nineties. She simply came to the end of the canine road

hard, but easy to cut through. About a foot down I found a fragment of hluc-and-white china, showing that someone had dug there years ago.

The morning had started grey, hut as I worked the sun came out and shooe brightly. I thnught back over the careers of the four bitches, their triumphs in the shooting field, their crazy habits, their sense of humour, the way they had won nur hearts and rendered us speechless

with exasperation.

1 consoled myself with the knowledge that all fnur had good working lives. Kate was run over prematurely, crossing a main road in pursuit of a pheasant, but the others

reached a ripe old age. If you live in the country, it is no good being sentimental: you must accept that oature gives all creatures a certain span, and you cannot expect any more. In human terms, Zephyr was in her nineties nearly twice the age that Kate's first owner reached - and simply came to the end of the canine road.

In the hazels above me hluetits were singiog. Down oo the lake geese kept calling, and buzzards whistled above the escarpment. Up the hill our ewes, oow heavily pregnant, were enjoying the sunshine. Their lambs will arrive in March, hut even though they are of pedigree stock, most wil go to the hutcher at the age of six or seven months.

In other words, even as I delved into the earth. the life of the land was carrying on all around, and I found this comforting. Just as I finished, heaping up a little rectangular mnund, clouds coming in from the east hlotted out the sun, and the morning turned grey, which seemed appropriate enough.

After nearly 27 years with dogs in the house, it feels odd to have none. "Get annther," friends urge, and probably we will. But it will have to have quite some charm and sense of humour if it is to match the character of the four black ladies who have gone before.

Buzzards go east

These magnificent birds of prey are on the increase. Daniel Butler reports

erhaps because they're our commonest big raptor, all too often they get ignored by nrnithologists, but huzzards are magnificent birds which are doing really well." Innes Sim, a researcher for the

RSPB, has just finished a three-year research project studying buzzards aloog the Welsh border. Although his census of soaring adult birds is not precise, it gives a good guide to the number of hreeding pairs, and the results have surprised even the experts. A preliminary analysis suggests that the population density has roughly doubled since 1983.

One reasoo for the raised eyebrows is that, despite the increase in numbers, so far huzzards have not expanded their range to the same exteor. Radio tracking of hirds in Dorset may answer that conundrum. It seems that huzzards are conservative: "Although the young birds disperse widely at first. they tend to return to their oest

As a result, until recently the rate. year, but there are now signs that densities have reached saturation:

"There is a point at which a shortage of food and nest sites will force them to be more adventurous

in looking for new breeding territories," says Innes Sim. Buzzards soaring on their broad, 4ft wingspans are now common sights above some motorways, and in just a few years they have spread east from Bristol as far as Newbury.

The expansion is not confined to major roads. Scotland and Ireland have seen big increases and even the relatively buzzard-unfriendly geography of Suffolk has just scored its first success m a century.

Not surprisingly, however, the most spectacular expansions are iling the frontiers of the r Welsh, Scottish and West Country strongholds. Wiltshire and Avoo have seen dramatic increases, with the number of sightings reported to the Oxford Ornithological Society doubling between 1993 and 1994 alone, while breeding pairs in the area have rocketed from three in the mid-Eighties to about 20 today.

of record-breaking breeding seasons: "Using BTO data, the



This is a rare environmental story

eaten rats, moles and young crows." But, he says, the magnificent

The Island of Djerba 'Land of the Lotus Eaters' 7 Nights half Board, per person Depart - 15th February : £299 22nd February : £249 1st, 8th March : £289 15th March : £299 22nd, 29th March : £369 5th April : £299 12th, 19th April : £249 26th April : £249 Price includes 7 nights half board accommodation, direct flights from Gatwick to Djerba and The island of Djerba, situated in the Gulf of inport transfers Gabes off the southern coast of Tunisia, is an escapist's paradise of white sands and waving Subject to availability, there is no pairts. The island has been referred to as supplement for single rooms, the Land of the Lotus Enters" since the time of Homer's Odyssey. Today the magic of Djerba stays much the same. Its dazzing beaches extend for Hease send me details of The Independent Dierba offer a staggering 130 kilometres. Stay at the luxury four star Hotel Djerbe Palace which offers spacious such that a lighter raises which others specious accommodation and superb facilities including indoor and outdoor pools, Turkish bath, fitness room, sports facilities, a range of restaurants and evening entertainment. The hotel has 20 acres of garden and direct access to the beach via a 300m waitway. Call READER OFFERS on 0990133160 Thes open 7 days a week. 9.00em to 10,000pm questing Ref., 1411, or complete the coupon and refum for ladies Offers. PRESPOST ANG 9556, Colchester, Essex CO1 928 his lockty's opened by Arrowne Holders - ARTA VESSA, ATOL 0782

THE INDEPENDENT



lower of the hour: winter jasmine, Jasminum nudiflorum. What else flowers unperturbed in the teeth of Siberian gales, on dank north walls, and other places where nobody ever remembers to feed it? It is ill-treated, too, by maniac clippers, who reduce it from an elegant, drooping curtain to an upright shaving-brush. Pin the lax growths up as high as you can and allow the fresh, green growths (the only ones that will flower) to hang down like a waterfall in front of the thicker, buff stems. If you have high retaining walls or banks, plant winter jasmine at the top and allow it to fall naturally down to cover the stonework. When pruning, don't give it a prison haircut overall. Selectively cut out some old flowered stems at base level, leaving the rest of the waterfall intact.

Grown this way, jasmine will climb to 12-15ft, deciduous but looking evergreen because of the brightness of the stems. The clear yellow flowers open from buds often tinged with red, and last from November to February.

d feel better about the New Year's crop of bills if they were franked with the Royal Mail's brilliant new greetings stamps, which show off the work of 18thcentury flower painters such as Georg Ehret. His brilliant blue Gentiana acaulis, ice-white magnolia and elegant Iris latifolia are among the 10 special stamps. The set also includes two of bis lovely tulips. Less well known than Ehret is Augusta Withers, of Lisson Grove in London. She was flower painter in chief to Queen Adelaide in 1830 but her brilliant orange gazania in the greetings stamp set looks as wildly modern as anything from the Flower Van at the Conran Shop in London. The set of 10 first class stamps, with stickers included, costs £2.60 from all post offices.

A little while ago, I mentioned the brilliant red Dahlia coccinea which I had seen in Mary Keeo's Gloucestershire garden. Ellis Marks of Norwich is an admirer, too. "I first saw it growing wild in Mexico," says Ms Marks, who later bought herself a plant from Wooltens Plants in Suffolk. "This was ooe of a hatch that had been grown from seed collected in Mexico. There was a great deal of variation in nowe size and colour. Some had a distinct touch of orange. I saved seed from my plant (a large-flowered, bright red form) and grew on about a dozen plants. Of the three I kept, two had reddish orange flowers and the third was a superb, largeflowered yellow. In the evening it is almost luminous." Woottens of Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9HD (01502 478258), is open every day, 9.30am-5pm. Send £2.50 for the book-sized catalogue.

🔟 ighly concentrated 6X organic manure has long been popular with town gardeners who like to retain some connection with the farmyard. Organic Concentrates, which markets 6X, has now launched it in the form of pellets to scatter as a feed on pots, window boxes or small patio beds. A 5kg pack costs around £4.99.

You can grow your own way

Anna Pavord sows her summer vegetables

y seed polatoes have arrived. I announced the fact brightly to daughter No 2. "And?" she replied after a pause just long enough to wither entirely any hope on my part that the parcel might be a subject fit for family conversation. But in the solitude of the hell-bole that is my potting corner, I continue to be quietly excited.

I love mail order, because I usually forget what I've sent for. In the parcel were Red Duke of York' bred around 1940, Dunbar Rover' (sounds like a football team), which is a few years older, and 'Edzell Blue', grown in Edzell, Angus before the First World War broke out. What supermarket can produce such delights as these?

The seed potatoes are grown by an firm called Heritage Seeds in Scotland and are sold through Mr Fothergill's Young Plants by Post catalogue. Why bother to grow potatoes, some gardeners ask? They are so cheap to buy. That's true, but unless you grow your own, you will never have you grow your own, you will never have the chance to sink your fork into a fluffy pile of 'Edzell Blue' mash, whipped up with good farm butter, a twist of pepper and a dusting of freshly grated nutmeg. Even Gary Rhodes's new London restaurant, City Rhodes, would be pushed to

Nobody knows the parentage of 'Edzell Blue'. That is often the case with very old varieties of plants that have been selected and reselected by cottage gardeners and allotment holders, impressed. not by the words of a stranger telling them what they ought to grow, but by the evidence of their own eyes and taste huds.

As well as tasting better than you bad ever imagined a potato could taste, many of the old varieties have blessedly strong constitutions. In the slap-happy, sprayhappy post-war years, this was not valued as much as it perhaps is now, when the effects of eating poisons for lunch are beginning to be more clearly understood. 'Edzell Blue' is immune to wart disease; 'Dunbar Rover' is resistant to blight.

Even their best friends would not call potatoes a decorative addition to the kitcheo garden, but what they lack in looks they make up for in the comfort the provide. A thick polato and leek soup makes eveo the deepest winter doldrum more bearable. But for wioter supplies, you need to grow main crop potatoes. I mostly stick to first earlies ('Red Duke of York') and second earlies ('Dunbar Rover' and 'Edzell Blue').

Early potatoes mature in about 14-16 weeks, so from a March planting, you may be eating the first new potatoes by the end "chit" them by laying them out in trays to sprout. Planting time depends on the weather. If you plant too early, sudden frost may cut down the green foliage. Commercial growers use spun polypropylene covers over their crops to protect them against this. In Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire, the flat fields look like lakes, covered entirely with a sbimmering

web. The system works for gardeners, too. You can grow early potatoes in containers with reasonable success, but the bigger the container, the greater the certainty. Crops from early potatoes are, anyway, lighter than the load you might expect from a main crop potato, so it is best to use the fast-maturing, lighter-cropping earlies if you want to grow in a pot (or a dustbin - they work very well).

Some gardeners push on early potatoes in a slightly heated greenhouse so that they can serve them with the Christmas turkey. To do this, though, you'd need to have potatoes planted by the end of



So shiny, they look unreal: chilli peppers make attractive pot plants, as well being useful for the kitchen

in a 12in pot in a greenhouse this month, you can expect a meal's worth by mid May. Extra early types such as 'Dunluce' and 'Rocket' are best for this.

Chilli peppers work well in pots, too, though they do best given the protection of a greenhouse, cold frame or cloche. They bear many more fruit than ordinary green pepper plants and look enchanting hung all over with a ripe, shiny crop. The sbininess is what makes them seem slightly unreal. Marshalls offer the 'Hot Mexican' pepper (77p) which makes a compact, sturdy plant. 'Cayenne' (Mr Fothergill, 99p) can be sown in February and March to provide crops from July

Dobics offers the medium hot chilli 'Apache' in its greenhouse collection: one plant each of chilli, red pepper and cucumber, and two varieties of tomato. one red, one vellow. The collection costs £6.95 for five plants and Dobies will deliver in mid-May.

Chillies look very good standing in clay compost, cover with cling film and keep about every two weeks. Rocket will grow pots, one plant to a pot, in a sea of English marigolds, but you bave to bring them on under cover first, before exposing them to the limelight. Tomato feed is a good booster for plants growing in pots.

Aubergine fruit have the same waxy, highly polished finish, but their foliage is flourier than the chillies'. They, too, need warm, slightly damp growing conditions. In the trials at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, aubergines were grown in an unheated poly-tunnel. 'Bonica' (Dobies, £1.32) got an Award of Merit. So did the white-skinned variety 'Ova' (Chiltern Seeds, £1.69). Looking at these kinds, you can see wby aubergines are called egg plants. Connoisseurs of the vegetable think that the white-skinned aubergines are superior in taste and tex-ture to the dark-skinned ones.

The seed of the aubergine is slow to germinate, so there is an advantage in sowing relatively early, this month or next.

the pots at a temperature of 60-65F. Wheo the seedlings poke through, take off the plastic covering and grow the plants on in the warm. Eventually they need to be potted on into a pot at least 9in across. Pinch out the growing tips of the plants when they are about 15in tall.

Whitefly can be a nuisance around aubergines. The best defence is a small, battery-operated car vacuum cleaner. Gently shake the plants to set the whitefly on the wing, then switch on the vacuum cleaner and suck them out of the sky. It's not quite as exciting as watching those "Look out! Jerry up your tail" black-andwhite war films that fill the afternoon hours of television in winter, but the principle is the same.

Rocket did well in the garden last year and I managed to keep a reasonable supply going, enough even to satisfy daughter No 1 who is a dab hand at designer salads. For the best results you Put a single seed in a 3in pot filled with need to sow thinly from March onwards,

quite easily in a large tub or a Grow-bag on a balcony. I haven't tried il indoors. There is not a great selection to choose from. Last year I grew seed from Marshall's (62p). They list it under herbs, rather than salad leaves.

This is a crop that you can save huge amounts of money on. Salad leaves are phenomenally expensive to buy ready prepared. Rocket is simplicity itself to grow and there is very little waste. You just wash it, then fold it dry in a tea towel and

Order the plants mentioned from: Mr Fothergill's Young Plants by Post, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 552512): Marshalls, Wisbech, Combridgeshire PE13 2BR (01945 466711); Samuel Dobie & Son, Broomhill Way, Torquey, Devon TQ2 7QW (01803 616888); Chiltern Seeds, Bortree Stile, Ulversion, Cumbria L412 7PB (01229)

Home is a box with a hole

Putting up nest boxes gives a lifeline to birds. By Daniel Butler

s you peruse the seed catalogues indoors in the warm, spare a thought for birds. For many species, a lack of nest sites is the principal limit on numbers and now is the time to put up nest boxes. Most gardens offer reasonable supplies of food for birds, but the majority lack safe refuges for breeding because the holes required by many hirds are normally found in old and diseased trees which are in short sup- entrances. Others, such as ply in our carefully managed modern environment.

Man-made hoxes can fill this gap, and can be bought from pet shops, garden centres and by mail order from the RSPB (prices start at around 65). Home-made versions are just as welcome to prospective inhahitants. Patterns can be obtained free from the RSPB. but most people with a modicum of DIY ability can design and up knock up their own. For fastidious craftsmen, a six-foot plank will provide all the wood needed for a perfeetly adequate box, while recyclers can make costless size and dimensions will door ply.

depend on the timber, but the box should allow you access to aid cleaning next winter (a piece of old inner tube works Although almost any small

container may attract visitors, every species has its own tastes. Boxes with round entrance holes of about 1in (25mm) diameter tend to attract the smaller tits, while nuthatches and sparrows can fit through 114 in (32mm) wagtails, tend to prefer rooms with a view" - boxes in which half the front has been

More ambitious bird enthusiasts can aim for rarer visitors. Woodpeckers like bigger versions of the standard box, but as a refinement these should he filled with expanded polystyrene (they like to excavate their own hole). Larger still are barn owl and kestrel boxes, this time lying on their sides and about 2ft x 1ft x 1ft | 60cm x 30cm x 30cm). Tawny and little owls prefer even longer tubes, tied at an angle to the tree trunk. All these nest boxes versions from scraps of wood can be made reasonably and a few galvanised nails. The cheaply from sheets of out-



Treated timber is theoretically safe for hirds, but it is best to verge on the side of caution, so any preservatives sbould be water-based and used only on the outside of the finished box. Much the biggest threat to nesters comes from predators, however, which in most urban gardens are cats.

To save distress, hanging boxes between 6ft and 12ft off protection from cats while savor thorny cuttings are wrapped around the trunk. Similarly, to avoid harming valued plants, it is best not to use nails, but to wire boxes to trunks or limbs, using tubing to prevent bark damage.

For the best rewards, place several boxes around the garden. In general, most birds prefer to avoid direct sunshine and prevailing winds hitting the entrance hole head on, but they can be fickle creatures. The most expensive, carefully positioned, well protected shelter is often ignored in favour of an apparently inferior site. Nevertheless, the effort put in now will be rewarded with cheerful birdsong in a few months' time.

National nest box week is being promoted by the British Trust for Omithology from 14 to 21 February. An information pack costing £2.95 (cheques payable to National Nest Box Week) is available from NBW, Freepost the ground gives an element of 1155. Conterbury, Kent CT3 4BR. Alternatively, the RSPB ing the well-wishing gardener has two free booklets and sells undue personal risk from tectering at the top of a ladder.

Tree-mounted boxes gain extra protection if barbed wire fordshire SG19 2DL.

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From Bugs Bunny to big. money.....20 A year in the life of Hello!.....21 Quadrophenia crazy: All * mod cons......22

Six of the best interior designs

The shapes of things to come

nterior decorating is taking over from television as the second most popular indoor pursuit of the Nineties, making it an increasingly competitive husiness subject. Even the professional tastebroker has a hard job keeping up with the latest trends. Will it be pink nr hlack? Printed or woven fabrics? Halogen lights or chandeliers? Minimalist or opulent?

One month into 1997 and the trends are already becoming clear. Here are some musts for the smart insider.

Glass acts

Suddenly bulbous shapes are much in evidence. Nicholas Arroyave-Portela's ceramic vessels have a remarkably tactile quality to them, making one want to run one's fingers over their intriguing humps and dimples. Simoo Moore's skilfully hand-blown glass vases (after a design by hip architect Nigel Coates, Professor of Architecture at the Royal College of Art) give the appearance of being a touch tipsy, slightly leaning to one side.

Nicholas Arroyave-Portela, Balls Pond Studios, 8b Culford Mews, London N1 (0171-

Simon Moore, Unit Two, Union Court, Union Road, Clapham, London SW4 (0171-498 0080).

Cool chic

For a nation whose favourite leisure activity is gardening it is not surprising that there is always a demand for fabrics depicting plants in some form or another. A few years ago, brightly coloured rosestrewn chintzes were all the rage. Now a more sophisticated cooler look has emerged drawing upon 18th and 19th century botanical prints for inspiration.

Zoe Hope's handwoven silk blinds which incorporate found leaves - are beautifully executed and have a charming simplicity. Clearly influenced hy botantical prints is the Nieuw Amsterdam Tulip (£82 50 a metre) by Brunschwig & Fils, a leading American fabric house. The Timney Fowler Heritage Collection inclu Timney Fow er in tea color palette

Zoe Hope, Unit 7, Cockpit Yard Workshops Northington street, London WC1 (0171-813

Brunschwig & Fils, 10 The Chambers, Chelsea Harbour Drive, London SW10 (0171-351 5797). Timney Fowler, 388 The King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 2263).

Metallic magic

TORK IL

purped Howard and their their

Not since the 1960s have metallics been so glamorous. Osborne & Little's imaginative range of Coloratura wallpapers are available in more than 60 colourways that "go beyood the usual paint finishes to show the subtle interactions of paints, inks and glazes". Sacho Hesslein's metallic fabrics - including one called Iron - are the perfect complime ot and would look stunning if used as curtains hung oo a glass pole with silvered glass finials from McKinney & Co. A truly elegant and sophisticated look.

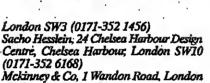
Osborne & Little, 304 The King's Road, feminine look.



Simple in sitk: One of Timney



Soft and sweet: Sheers can be found at Osborne & Little



SW6 (0171-384 1377) Shades of velvet

the prime exponent of this look and are The close correlation between the fashioo and interior design worlds is demon-strated by the abundance of velvet furnishing fabrics suddenly available. This trend closely follows this winter's ultimate fashion accessory, a dévoré velvet scarve. Camilla Ridley's velvet dévoré-covered lampshades are an ingenious way of exploiting the contrasting textural effects of the fabric. Renwick & Clark gathered dévoré velvet shades are another attractive alternative for those wanting a softer







Fine in felt: Scarves from the Asta

Barrington Studio

Sophisticated shade: Velvet designs from Camilla Ridley

Camilla Ridley Designs (0171-221 7329) Renwick & Clarke, 190 Ebury Street, Lon don SW1 (0171-730 8913)

dimples create a tactile quality

Not since Celia Birtwell introduced her stars and paisley motifs has there been such a radical new look for sheers. But this time the multi-coloured, spotted, checked, striped and floral-patterned sheers are the brainchild of Nina Cambell, better known as a purveyor of the English country house look. Printed nn floary cotton voile they have exotic names including Caduranga, Agincourt Stripe and Famille Rose. The colours are in soft pastels shades of rose, sky blue and primrose. Stronger hues of green, red and charcoal more charac-teristic of Nina Campbell are also available.

Available through Osborne & Little as above

Felt is suddenly smart and no-one has done more to promote it than Asta Barrington, whose pretty felted throws show an innate sense of colour and love of pattern and texture. A graduate of the Royal College of Art in 1995, Asta's distinctive work is also notable for an imagmative use of various techniques which create nnusual textures and finishes, drawing on the oatural world for organic

Comely with curves: The work of Nicholas Arroyave-Portela is a reaction to recent minimalism. Their bumps and

Asta Barrington, Studio 17, Cornwell House, 21 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1 (0171-251 1763). Also available at The Cross, 141 Portland Road, London W11 (0171-727 6760).



Amicia de Moubray Fine finials: Silvered glass designs from McKinney & Co

Adwatch

A lottery of lotteries

t's Winsday", Camelot's oew campaign triumphantly declares. The National Lottery operator is spending £8 million to persuade us to play its new mid-week lottery draw. Success, however, may not be easily bought: Cameint must combat not only the growing number other ways tn have a flutter but ingrained shopping hahits, too.

In the ad, a man spies through a telescope the magic hand of fortune pointing at him. Two girls pass by. "One day i'll meet my prince charming," one says to her friend. "It's me!", the man cries as he runs by. The girls shake their heads in disagreement and walk on. Lit-

Plans for a midweek National Lottery draw were announced last October. Camelot estimates it will generate an extra £6 million a week in prize money, benefiting good causes by an estimated £3.8 millioo a week. The new draw will take place on BBC1's midweek lottery show which starts this week. The timing is, to say the

Camelot originally planned to launch the midweek draw last spring. However, sales then were higher than expected. But by last autumn, Camelot was predicting annual total sales for 1996/7 would be down on those for 1995/6 - a result, it claims, of the volatile Instants scratchcards business.

A steady stream of new games are the life a fact underlined by rival organisations, like Lit-tinue promoting itself as Britain's biggest prize tlewoods and UK Charity Lotteries, which have draw for quite some time to come. introduced a number of new games over the past year. Now, Camelot hopes its midweek draw can

"Winsdsay", created by Saatchi & Saatchi, is in the same style as previous "It Could Be You" ads. But will it persuade us to spend

Core drued lottery player Mary Cartwright, 63, thinks not. "I enjoy a flutter on a Saturday night but if I bought one midweek too. I'd worry I'd be on a slippery slope." Frequent players, she believes, would play whatever the day. And, according to Sne Anderson, 32, who buys at least three tickets a week, she could be right.

"My concern would be what would I do if my

numbers came up on a Wednesday, and I only played Saturday," Ms Anderson says. "It is definitely a clever way to get me to spend more."

Ninety per cent of us has bought at least one
Inttery ticket while 62 per cent do so every week. "This means the oew draw is unlikely to grow total oumbers playing much further," Glover says. "The longer term objective is to

draw occasional players to play more often." There is, however, the problem of growing competition. Deregulation is allowing more forms of gaming to promote their wares. Littlewoods, for example, is now running an aggressive campaign featuring Alan Hansen part of a strategy to re-position itself as all about football rather than just jackpots. Glover believes this offers a lesson for them all.

"It's all about focusing on core strengths," blood of the lottery and scratchcard business - he says. Which is why Camelot is likely to con-

NDEPENDENT The Wallhouse



ENJOY real greenhouse gardening in little more than the space of a grow bag. The Wallhouse is perfect for all year round growing - propagate seedlings in the early spring, plant tomatoes or cucumbers and ripen peppers in the summer, and, as the rest of your garden is hibernating, you can be sowing autumn seeds and growing fresh hardy winter salads. The Wallhouse provides three growing levels. The two rugged upper shelves

- only £69.95 inc. carriage.

can hold 24 x20-plant bedding boxes (or 50 x 13cm pots) and the base will house a full sized growbag and eight more pots. The upper shelves can be removed to allow for larger plants underneath. Access to all growing levels is achieved by raising the spring-loaded roller-blind cover, enabling you to plant easily, to tie

back, spray, feed and harvest. Measuring 3ft 5ins (104cm) wide by 1ft 8ins (51cm) deep and standing 4ft 9ins (146cm) high, the Wallhouse is an Please send me_

invaluable addition to your garden and is or debit my Access/VIsa account by this amount. My card number is;

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The film of the mug of the duvet Helk

What has 'Space Jam' to do with a new vest? It's all about cross marketing. By **Debbie Davies**

n 1934 Clark Gable bared his chest in the film It Happened One Night, and vest sales plummeted. Sixty-three years later Warner Bros is hoping Michael Jordan will have the opposite effect on vest sales when he appears in Space Joni, its live action, animated intergalactic adventure film. The basketball hero stars alongside Warner's Loom Toons cartoon characters, and it doesn't need Einstein to spot the film's potential as the centre of gravny for a host of spin-offs,

When Space Jain opens next month, "At n cinema near you" will be a cuphemism for absolutely anywhere, not just in the UK but across Europe, as 6,000 shops and restaurants join cinemas in selling you the film. There will be Space Jam pants, pyjamas, shorts and T-shirts as well as vests, at Savacentre stores. There will be a strawberry and raspherry jam - Space Jam. Toy shops will be taken over by Michael Jordan lookalikes featuring his recorded new film which also means a new voice: for older fans. Tie Rack is selling ties, socks and boxer shorts. Buy a Space



competitions it is running with Warner down which we Bros. First prize is a trip to Chicago to watch Michael Jordan play baskethall.

American Embassy for retailers and manufacturers interested in selling products or promotions using the Space Iam theme. The film is hot property in licensing terms. Not only does it feature a sporting superstar role model: in Bugs Bunny it has a cartoon character with a 41-year track record of winning our affection. The film's Easter release makes for a perfect romance: Bugs Bunny gets a girlfriend, Lola Bunny. The Easter bunny spin-offs will multiply like, well, rabbits.

Space Jam hopes to follow Toy Story, The Lion King and a host of others as a wardrohe, a new duvet cover, new lighting, even new food. Cross marketing is the

may shop. Stuart Solloway, managing Warner Bros had its own show at the director of Warner Bros Studio Stores, explains: The merchandise starts promoting the film before it opens, then the film's

success helps sell the

merchandise.

Warner Bros may be the cheerleader this time, but the star of cross marketing is Walt Disney. When Disney sets out to sell its latest film, or

"entertainment property", it signs up hundreds of promotional partners, such as McDonald's, which hope to gain customers by advertising film freebies. More complicated still is the cross marketing Jum product from Tie Rack in March and name companies give to the knack of the retailer will give you a scratch card for crossing their product into every avenue publishing interests, and their major

car manufacturer, for examadvertise in the com-pany's maga-

seeing its cars featured in films. However, it is not easy to predict what will sell. Warner Bros' surprise hestseller at Christmas was merchandise fea-

zines in return for

turing its hit TV series Friends. Coffee mugs with the logo from Warner's TV medical drama series, ER, also sold out. "People have a real affection for the characters we create and they want to identify with them," says Mr

Choosing which characters to focus

advertisers. A cross marketing on is a key decision. Over-dependence on the girl's face at the centre of Disney's Pocahontas meant that few spin-offs from the film appealed to boys. And characters need longevity. Robert Mitchell, a Disney marketing Robert Mitchell, a Disney marketing director, says: "Characters like Scar from The Lion King are still talked about, whereas few people can name the characters from Jurassic Park." Similarly, Mr Solloway at Warner Bros says. "We wouldn't cross market something like Pride and Prejudice. It's far too transient."

In 1994 Disney set up more than 1000 different Lion King products and

1,000 different Lion King products and promotions, generating \$1bn almost overnight. Why should The Lion King eclipse more recent Disney releases such as Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre Danie and, maybe, 101 Dalmanans? Peter Woodhead, managing director of Walt Disney Consumer Products, says: "The Lion King appealed to boys

audience." By comparison, films such as 101 Dalmatians present Disney with the impossible task of registering black spots as a trade mark.

The idea of cross marketing is nothing new. In the Fifties Warner Bros pioneered the transfer of feature films to TV, while Walt Disney is a master of the re-release.

Technology has also opened up new areas for Disney, including CD-Roms and video games. Despite being late into the UK market for "edutainment" CD-Roms, and charging a premium, Disney managed at least three titles in the top 10 sellers throughout last year and holds more than 10 per cent of the educational software market in the US. On the Internet it has web sites supporting its leisure and film interests. The next logical step would be for Disney to become a service provider to rival the likes of AO1, with its dedicated children's sites.

All this means even greater pecess to the target audience for the few who are able to set up and command cross marketing channels. Companies left on their own to promote new products are right to be concerned.

Is the cross marketing circle as big as it can get? Few companies can match Disncy's \$6.3bn revenues, but Mr Mitchell helieves his biggest merchandise oppor-tunity has yet to come. Later this year, Disney releases Hercules, an animated film based on the character from Greek mythology. "The Greeks used his face more than any other god's, on vases, plates and cups, so he's the first superstar," says Mr Mitchell. In the film, Hercules even runs his own chain of designer label shops: Panic and Pan wear sandals from the Hercules range and drink out of Hercules cups.

With Michael Jordan and Hercules, boys may find 1997 a vintage year, It could even offer competition for that other cross marketed pastime, football.



Sure thing

Warner Bros is on to a sure thing if it can repeat the success of its Batman film with Space Jam. Batman earned \$250m in ticket sales and a further \$700m in merchandise sales.



Good thing

Can't wait to see the movie? Visit Warner's website at http://www.movies.warperbros.com. There are film clips, links to has-ketball sites and, because it's the Internet - the one place where even film companies struggle to make money - you can download things like Space Jam screen savers and colouring books for free.

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Mad thing

This spin-off will drive parents mad: Swackhammer Tweety with Hangtime Hoop Cage. A tasteful monstar (sic) in purple is challenged by the Looney Tunes gang in a game to win their freedom. This game from Playmates, part of Warner Bros Toys is one of a set starring Space Jam toys - all of which will be nagged for by thousands of kids.

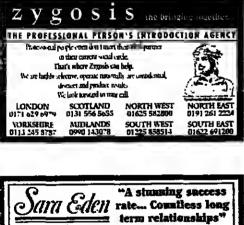
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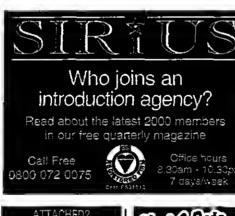
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duve 'Hello!' and the art of optimism

Does an exhibition of covers herald the beginning of a new movement? By David Lister



PHOTOMONTAGE: JONATHAN ANSTEE

minated the inner psychological turmoils of urban life, so a new exhibitioo opening on Monday will illuminate the external synthesis between art, fashion and the media

Mad thing

that define fin-de-siècle culture. The exhibition of 52 covers of of February in the Gallery Bar at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane. If this is an exhibition that will move to the Tate when the Turner Prize shortlist is That is an art form. announced in the autumn, then we might be witnessing the start of a the new wave in British art, Ms mostly famous for making exhibi-

look *passé.*

In the words of the show's curator, Caroline Parr, "the covers are glamorously colourful. It's a chronicle of our times; we go from wed-Hello! magazine runs for the whole dings to divorces and deaths. Yes, the covers are paparazzi photographs, but this is serious paparazzi. There are people having fun, and there are people in pain.

expressionist canvas where love and life find oo easy linear route.

Simoo Tait, author of Palaces of Discovery, a guide to the treasures in Britain's museums, sees the exhibitioo as heing part of a grand tradition. "Britain's museum and gallery history is full of adveoture That is an art form." and dottiness," he says, "though to make an exhibition of personalities

form this function with a panache that cocks a snook at art critics clinging to a narrow belief that art must mirror social realism.

Two months after Robert Maxwell's death by drowning, his widow, Betty, shows Hello! around their lavish Freoch villa. While the rest of the world gossips about how Wales look on their visit to Korea, coojure up. All branches of the London W1 (0171-499 6363)

with its signature exclamation mark, reminiscent of Roy Licbtenstein's American Pop, is Fergie in a green gown, revealing an expanse of thigh. The Duchess of York Poses as a Model" reads the coverline, but

with the subtle omission of the expected exclamation mark. Most ootable is the ecleticism of

ust as last year's flurner Prize winnew cultural movement—"the art of our Douglas Gordon's slowmotion video installations illuminuted the inner psychological intermedis of urban life, so a new exhimotion video installations of urban life, so a new exhimotion video installations of urban life, so a new exhimotion video installations illumotion vide magazine covers in clip-oo frames; cal painting to the Pop art of the Six- vases their real value. Underneath than the marriage of racing comon a deeper level, however, it is one ties. But the covers of Hello! per- the confident white oo red "Hello!" mentator Derek Thompson and his

The world of horses, like the world of art, can unite royalty, the landed geotry and even the chap who does the verbals on Channel 4 on a Saturday afternoon in one glorious postmodern collage. 'Hello! Covers Exhibition' runs to the

end of February in the Gallery Bar, estranged the Prince and Princess of subject matter that the canvases can Grossenor House Hotel, Park Lane,

Under the counter with Lindsay Calder

n my book contraception is a dirty word: the Pill can be dangerous, condoms can split, the Coil give you a nasty infection - and a friend of mine had to go back to have it trimmed down because it was stabbing her partner. Gruesome. If you use the Cap you practically have to take a flight bag with you to carry all the bits. And the Sponge and the Femidom just conjure up images of school pudding and boil-in

the bag. So it was with some interest that I saw an ad for Persona - a "system" that allows you to "make love" without using any contraceptives. Sure, I

thought. The catch is? Well, it wasn't a steal -£49.95 for the "monitor" and £9.95 for a box of eight "test sticks". Basically the deal is that you press a button on the monitor when your period starts, and do 16 urine samples the first month and eight every month thereafter. By measuring your hormone levels it tells you when to Do It and when Not To. Simple.

Well, sort of ... The 62-page booklet gives supposedly clear instructions on how to log on to your pocket-sized system. Unfortunately there was no Persona For Dummies handbook. On my "M" day (day 1) I was thrown into a panic over when exactly I should press my M as this would establish my "testing window". There is, thank God, a helpline - sorry, "careline", which after leaving me on hold for 20 minutes, informed me that around 8am would be a good time for me to press.

After this it is relatively plain sailing. Waking up to your monitor in the morning is rather like waking up at the traffic lights: Green = Go for it! Red = Not Tonight! And Amber = A sample please! Amber is my least favourite light. This means using a test stick (or a pec stick, as my husband affectionately calls it) and trying to pee on it for three seconds during your testing window, then inserting it in the monitor's "test stick slot". Five minutes later a verdict of Green or Red will be reached. As an added boous a cute little 0 with a dot in the centre flashes when you are ovulating. I have to say, apart from

the peeing bit, so far so good. The system is allegedly "as reliable as a condom", but I'm not without my fears. Every Tuesday I have to hide it from the cleaner in case she scrubs it with something abrasive and inadvertently causes us to become parents.

Persooa is available exclusively from Boots. For more details call Careline (0800 994455).

'Look, think, take your time' - the secret to collecting

Sotheby's contemporary art curator Janice Blackburn talks to John Windsor about buying a collector's item

otheby's has appointed a priyate collector, Janice Black-burn, to curate its first selling exhibition of contemporary decorative arts (which runs for a week, from 6 February). Her architectdesigned home in Hampstead could be mistaken for a gallery, with its polished floorboards and sparsely displayed, oamed artefacts: curvaceous tables and chairs by Roo Arad and Mary Little: an exotic piece of plumbing by Fred Baier that serves as a double bed.

There are 77 artists' names in the exhibition catalogue - furnituremakers, ceramicists, glass-blowers, jewellers and lighting wizards, most of them virtually unknown to the public, but all well known to Ms Blackhurn and her husband, David, a lawyer and property developer, who have winkled them out in a search-and-buy operation that has spanned 15 years.

With young home-makers eager to buy works of art by up-and-comers, the couple's expertise is at a premium. London auctioneers are competing fiercely for the "modern design" market and Sotheby's has copied Bonhams, which held its first annual decorative arts selling exhibition - or "tag sale" in art market jargon -in 1992. There is oo bidding. This is fixed-price retailing, with purchases replaced from stock. Dealers, needless to say, are livid.

Seel

Ms Blackburn's secret? She makes it sound simple. Her advice, after the ritual incantation of "buy for love, not for investment" was: look, think, and take your time".

How many novice collectors feel an urge to snap up that vase or brooch before someone else gets it? Ms Blackburn says: "You may miss



Collect call: 'I don't buy safe things,' says Janice Blackburn (above), 'safe is boring'

are worth anything, they are not going to go away. Give yourself time to think. Do you really like it?

"For example, we first saw Mary Little's furniture [often "dressed" and bumanoid-looking; bought by design museums 111 years ago at her degree show at the Royal College of Art. We loved a wooden chair of bers, but did not buy. Five years later we noticed her name at a Crafts one or two pieces, but if the artists Council exhibition - and bought.

"As for Ron Arad [tables with glass tops and twisted metal legs; hollow, welded steel armchairs that found his work a bit of a shock. Most people we knew thought it was a joke. But we went back to his stujoke. But we went back to his studio time after time, just to look. He must have been sick of the sight of us. Now, if I bad to pick the persoo in the selling exhibition whose work is most important, I'd pick Ron."

Administrate by Ms Blackburn as "a pill boxes, strands of plastic and hotbed, getting better and better". She spots them at the college's says. A spiky Wilkinson necklace.

number of oames in Sotheby's exhibition are graduates of the RCA

And before the thinking? "If you annual degree shows in June. "No have no confidence in your own need to buy immediately," she reittaste, then look at more and more erates (and degree shows do tend to sell ex-studio for £9,000 plus] we art works. That way, you will also be overpriced), "take the exhibitors' learn to appreciate the work that is cards and keep in touch with them."

The most striking work at last year's RCA degree show for Ms Blackburn was Kate Wilkinson's costume jewellery made from timplate

worn round the neck of Joan Bakewell as she presented the Turner prize in December, stole the show.

"Whenever I see a degree show advertised," says Ms Blackburn, "I do my damnedest to go to it." That goes for Ceotral St Martin's School of Art and Design and Goldsmiths as well as the RCA. Then there is the New Designers exhibition, held each July at the Business Design Centre in Islington, where graduates of out-of-Loodon colleges display their work. Her discoveries there have led her on a trail to textile studios in Glasgow and Edinhurgh. Another, unglamorous source of talent is the Crafts Council's illustrated index of craftspeople. Ms Blackburn discovered Fred Baier in it.

She describes most of her finds in the forthcoming selling exhibition as "wild cards". They include the ceramicist Julia Schrader (teddy with porcelain spikes), Nina Leck (metal handbags), Emily Bates (texriles with human hair) and Jo Gordon (outrageous hats).

"I don't buy safe things," she says. "Safe is boring." But in today's market, isn't it often the wildest-looking things that

are the safest buys? "I don't buy for investment", she insists, "I buy because I love the work. But if you have a good eye an 1 confident taste and buy what you like, you've got a good chaoce of picking winners."

That's more like it.

Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 8080). Some of the artists' work can be seen at the Crafts Council exhibition Objects of Our Time', until 16 February, at 44a Pentonville Road, Islington, London

Fantasy book league

The winner of the £150-worth of books from The Folio Society will be announced next weekend. The challenge: to name the best books of the last fifty years. Is this the line up which will coincide closest to the top ten cominated by literary editor Boyd

1984, George Orwell. Schindler's Ark, Thomas Keneally. History of Western Philosophy, Bertrand Russell, The Heart of the Matter, Graham Greene. Collected Poems, Philip Larkin. Collected Poems, Seamus Healey. Lord of the Flies, William Golding. The Story of Art, Ernest Gombuch, The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway, Dr Zhivago, Boris Paternak. (From Barbara Brown, Stroud, Glos)

Find out next Saturday.

The article oo railway Station shopping last week was written by Sarah Lonsdale, not Charlotte Packer as we attributed. Apologies to all concerned.

n the thesaurus of daft adjectives used tu promote the humble car, none is less appropriate or more overused than "exciting". Cars, or at least the vast majority of them, should never he exciting. They are meant to reassure and protect, not excite: to lower our heartbeat, not raise it.

Many car makers crow about "building excitement" and such rubhish, among them Toyota, Japan's higgest maker (and taking both quality and cost into account, probably the world's most accomplished manufacturer of cars). People do not buy Toyotas to he excited. They huy them because they are good value and rarely let you down. They are anti-excitement cars. (After all, there is rarely a motoring event so exciting as being stranded on the hard shoulder of a motorway at peak hour.)

I have just been driving a Toyota Carrry V6 automatic and it is, without doubt, one of the least exciting cars I have ever driven. It goes about its business quietly and



comfortably and completely fuss-free. Like the best big saloons, it is therapeutic rather than exciting to drive. Its anonymous looks are a boon: they help avoid the excitement of being stopped by the police.

I like big anti-excitement cars. They cruise along in a lazy, carefree way, encouraging a similar driving

I like big, antiexcitement cars. They cruise along in a lazy, carefree way, encouraging a similar driving manner. They are the perfect foil to a hard day's work

manner. They are the perfect foil to a bard day's work. Who wants to climb aboard a five-speed GTi huzz box, when the alternative is a soft and supple automatic saloon that can waft you home: the motoring equivalent of a pipe and slippers in front of a fireplace while the butler brings a large scotch?

The best big, anti-excitement cars, in my experience, are Jaguars. (Rolls-Royces would be even better, were it not for the fact that everybody else on the road hates you, which tends to increase the excitement level.) Jags are relatively common, at least in London, and are big and unstressed and comfortable. You can feel vour angst dissipate after a few miles. The sporty models, of course, are not so good. Jags are not sporty cars, no matter what the hig alloy wheels and war paint and marketing buml may suggest. Jags are big, soft saloons, or at least the best ones are.

Mercedes saloons are also good. My favourite is the old S-class, as favoured by politicians, plutocrats and peers. They are plush tanks. and all that protective armour tends to reduce excitement, because you know you will rarely be threatened.

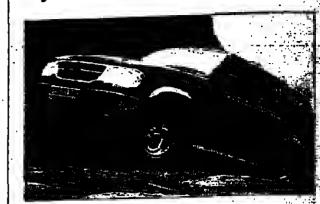
Other favourite anti-excitement tonics include the V6 Ford Scorpio (helped hy its profound

ugliness and its surprising comfort), big Citroens (because they ride with such suppleness and yet reassurance) and most large new American cars (rare in Europe). Off-roaders are too frenzied - they're too noisy and roll too much, although new Range Rovers are almost unexciting. BMWs are hopeless, even the big saloons. They're too sporty and thus about as therapeutic as a 10-mile jog. Volvos don't relax, either. Too many motorcyclists abuse you, in anticipation of eventually being killed by you or a fellow Volvo driver. Most Japanese saloons are also poor. They are too energetic of ride and too buzzy of motor.
Which is why the vary V6 was

such a surprise. Quiet, refined, anonymous, I hardly remember a single journey I did in it, it was so relaxing. In fact, it was so unexciting I barely recollect the car at all. It merely served up entirely fuss-free transport, like a good, big saloon car should.

A bit of US excess

Roadtest: the Ford Explorer By James May



ardly anyone really goes off-roading in the UK. Yet there is now a steady market for such vehicles, and a healthy enthusiasm for the American "sport utility" interpretation of the genre. Consider the success of Jeep in the UK: unashamedly American cars are selling well.

In its Explorer, Ford has a ready-made response. Conversion to right-hand drive and a bit of gentle Europeanising - most significantly the switch from column to floormounted gear change bas been enough to modify a US best-seller for this market. And it remains obviously American: auto box only, a bit garish at the front, sitting on chromed wheels and kinda big all

In the States there is a "

V8 version; bere we get a V6 heavily revised from a pushrod to overhead cam layout and delivering a healthy 206bhp. The gearbox is a five-speeder and the four-wheel drive bardware features a convincing, electronically controlled transfer box which automatically alters the torque split front-torear in its on-road setting. Should anyone want to venture into the mud, the off-roader can be locked :.. to give a 50/50 split and high and low ratios. Even without a manual box and diff locks, it will tackle

impressive terrain. In its more natural road-going habitat, the Explorer is really quite impressive for a vehicle whose design requirements count against it. For an American car, the steering is refreshingly meaty, especially compared to the Jeep's – though the tall, weighty Explorer will still feel ponderous in fast bends. The engine is eager, if a hit noisy, and the auto-box shifts smoothly and intelligently, save for a reluctance to kick down from its

overdrive top. This is best switched out on windy roads.
The interior is even

more of a relief for anyon familiar with crunchy, oftchromed American switch gear. It's big but toned in the best Ford tradition, and quite sober. The seats are very good indeed and rear accommodation is generous, but then it should be as this is a gigantic "car". Don't expect a limousine ride, though chunky tyres and the requirement for the suspension to cope with disused quarries and the like mean you will be gently pummelled.

In the role of a normal car the Explorer makes no more sense than any other big off-roader - which is not much, to be frank. But as a bit of American excess, it does nicely.

Specifications Ford Explorer £25,375 SOHC 4.0-litre V6, 206bhp, five-speed automatic gearbox. Top speed 106mph, 0-60mph 10.9sec, average fuel

consumption 20.6mpg Jeep Grand Cherokee 4.0 Limited, £28,995 Even more obviously American than the Ford stealth bomberstyling and a slightly un-European interior. With its smaller Cherokee sibling, the trend-setter for "sport ntes" (utility vehicles) in the UK. Mitsubishi Shogun 3.0 V6 5-door, £27,059 Japan's attempt at a redneck, and convincing at that. Chunky and glitzy on the outside, a bit clinical and Oriental within. Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8 S 5-door, £24,475 The British stalwart Compared with the American approach, this reveals its utilitarian roots: boxy styling and something of a hose-down interior. The engine - of distant American origin, ironically
- is gutsy; the Discovery

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Not only does the HCS sys-

orget Sting and The Who. In Quadrophenia, that cult Mods and Rockers movie rereleased this week, the real stars are scooters. Yet far from simply presenting a nostalgic image of the Sixties, scooters are very much an urban vehicle of the Nincties. On a scooter you can be flash for comparatively little money - street cred and convenience, that's what it's all about.

In 1995 the Italians bought half a million new scooters. And the appeal is spreading: last year the British market grew by 40 per cent. The majority of these are hi-tech 50cc automatics, which are helping to dispel the image associated with the word "moped". How, the best, use of it, with good ever, they're only really suited to short journeys. What's just over 70mph. needed, for car-brushing kudos, is all that technology and flair special - and its smaller combined with a higger engine. And so the Bologna-based firm Italict has come up with the Italjet Formula 125.

Scooter riding is all about being smug. A twist of the wrist at the traffic lights and you send all but the most determined car driver into the Formula's mirrors. Any cars that do get by are simply lost at the next tailback. If you are feeling brave, you can tun on the window and say "I het vour car is really fast between the jams, isn't it?" leaving the car driver hemised by the half compliment. Then you simply filter to the front of the queue for another go. Motive power, for this mula, but it really works, too, cles (0181-543 2508).

delightful mockery of motoring. which is a nice touch. Conis a twin-cylinder 125cc twocealed inside the front wheel is stroke engine. The barrels are a hydraulic disc brake, with water cooled for reliability, and another at the rear, both of which can be used heavily while the belt-driven transmission is still retaining the full front sus-pension that copes with bumps. The downside to this is slightly fully automatic for ease of use. Hit the electric start button, twist the throttle and you are restricted steering movement; off. Acceleration is a smooth, stepless advance of speed that though this is only noticeable geared machines of equal doing U-turns or in the thickpower can't keep up with. est of traffic. Steering move-Engine vibration is reduced ment is still far more than you below that of many of the 50cc get on most motorcycles, which scooters, thanks to the well balis why the nimble scooters -Formula 125 included - still anced twin-cylinder layout. Power output is 14hp, in have an advantage over heavy

bikes in crowded city centres. accordance with new European laws for learner motorcycles. Outright handling and braking are about as good as you are going to get on such a light scooter. The OK, so 14hp isn't much, but the automatic transmission makes disc brakes not only have enough power to stop in the space of a acceleration and a top speed of beer mat, but also retain the What makes this machine so important "feel" needed when

conditions are greasy. brother, the Formula 50 - are Italjet, which also makes the its miraculous cycle parts. The Velocifero retro scooter, as Formula is the first scooter to owned by Oasis, is entering use single-sided hub-centre into only limited production of the Formula 125. So it looks as steering. HCS is a way of sepif you'll have to put your name arating steering and braking forces in order to prevent the down on a waiting list if you want to be king of the queue front-end dive you experience on most two-wheelers when busters this summer. you brake hard. This system,

The Formula 125 gets its official launch in Italy on 12 February. No UK price has yet been set, but it is expected to be around £3,000. The Formula 50 has the ing arm. The front wheel turns same chassis, but only a 50cc on a car-type steering knuckle. engine, and sells in the UK for £2,100. For more details contact tem look superb on the For- the importer, Frontiers Motorcy-



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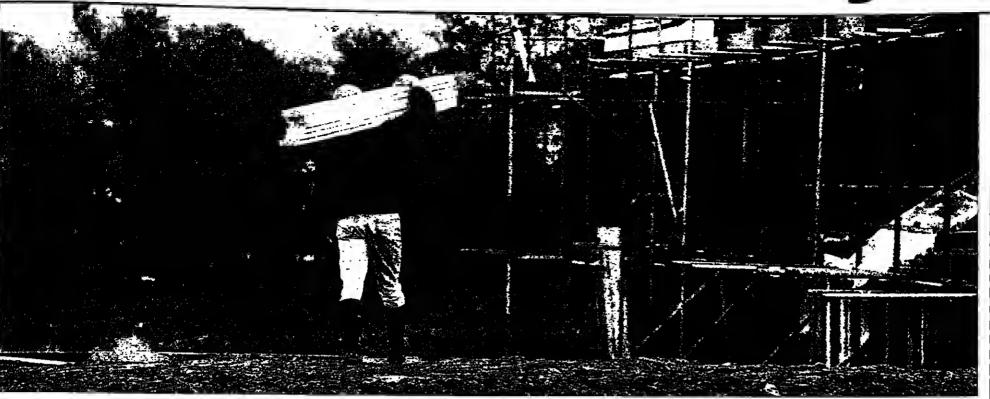
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Find more rooms to breathe

Calling in the builders may be a better option than moving. By Penny Jackson

worse; the agonies of househunting, or living with the builders. Given that buying and selling at present are likely to take longer than eveo a builders' overrun schedule, it is not surprising that so many people are they wanted to move. "But because it choosing to extend or convert, rather is in a good location, backing on to In the days when everybody was play-

than move. ing musical bomes, it was a simple matter of waiting for a larger house down the street or in the oext village to come oo to the market. If a first choice was lost, there would be another close on its beels. Now, though, the months tick by with nothing oo the horizon, and all

the while prices are creeping up.

The arrival of the builders this week at Sally Palmer's home in the village of Sonning Commoo near Reading

In times of shortage, as in times of marked the end of a fruitless houserecession, the oumber of people hunt and the start of an extension. She adding space to their homes increases, and her husband had spent a year look. Ben Stage, of Goldschmidt and How. ing for a larger family house in the land's Hampstead office, saw it haparea. "We had several offers oo our house, but there was nothing on the market. We were looking for an older, larger place, in the same school catchment area but a bit more rural."

t is difficult to know which is light oo their rather unprepossessing Sixties home. "It as concrete box built by the Home Office for prison goveroors, with a mean kitchen and a dining room you can't swing a cat in," says Mrs Palmer, listing the reasons why woodland, with a big sitting room and a very large gardeo, it is worth spending money oo to get the space we oeed." In a few mooths, the Palmers should he able to swing their three children in the kitchen and dining room, while the first floor will have sprouted a new bedroom and bathroom. "It would cost a huge amount more to buy a house with this kind of space. We are also getting exactly what we want," adds Sally Palmer.

peaing during the clamour for property in the Eighties and during the recent recessioo. He also sees ao overall Frustratioo began to shed a rosier of oot using an architect or surveyor, Extensions: what the builders say

Take professional advice from an architect and/or a surveyor, Apply for planning permission, and make sure the plans are communicated to the authority. It is not to your advantage to have them pared down to such an extent that the conversion fails to meet your needs. Do not unbalance a small house with Inappropriate extensions. Do not have work done if you simply want to move. It is not an investment. Get builders to provide a proper schedule and give regular reports on progress. Word of mouth is invaluable. Check out loft conversions/extensions by neighbours. If adding a conservatory as extra living space, make sure it is well insulated and

particularly in the case of conservcan be used all year round, theo it will trend for more living space and fewer add value to the house. But they can bedrooms. But he warns of the dangers be a terrible headache. It must be well

can be used all year round.

the summer, freezing in the winter, and problems of condensation."

In cities, burrowing up is the most obvious way to accommodate more of the family. Deborah and Anthony Brunero didn't want to move from Loodon's leafy East Sheeo, but with a small son and another baby on the way they did oot have the space in their three-bedroomed semi-detached home. "We had the loft converted and now have an entire new floor - a hig bedroom, a bathroom and my office. The wooderful thing is that it means my son uses a bedroom as a playroom. so we are oot tripping over toys downstairs," says Deborah Brunero. "It was hell while the work went on, and it took three times looger than it should have dooe, but oow we don't have to move. We remortgaged for another £30,000 but that amount of money wouldn't

have bought us a five-bedroom house."

Agents are always cautious about the value a conversion adds to a property, and it does depend on the prevailing trends of an area, and the dimensions of the house: In Parsons Green, west London, for instance, the Peterborough Estate is a parcel of streets in a popuinsulated if you are to avoid baking in lar conservation area where loft con- to get that sum back.

versions are the rule rather than the exception. Robert Stewart, of Hamptons' Fulham office, also sees ao increasing number of basements being dug out – a messy job, often requiring underpinning – which can give a family a large playroom and utility room. Mr Stewart recently valued an

unchanged two-storey house, threebedroomed house in one of the popular streets at about £425,000, whereas transforming top and bottom would push it closer to £575,000. The cost of a conversion, he reckons, after redec-oration, would oot leave much change out of £100,000, but is clearly worth it. However, in the streets of Victorian terraces in Battersea, known as Little India, spending money oo a loft cooversioo is a questionable enterprise. A two-and-a-half-bedroomed house with a through reception, small kitcheo and tiny garden would be unbalanced by adding another floor and would be of little use to a family, whose living space would still be cramped. According to Hamptons, it would cost about £15,000 to convert the loft, and would not increase the saleability of the house. The best anyone can expect is

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he Aga is blue, two-oven and oil-fired. The sixbedroom period house which comes with it is Clarence Court, in Congresbury, Somerset, 12 miles from Bristol. Dating from the 17th century but extended later, the house is five minutes walk from the village centre and stands in its own gardens of two-thirds of an acre. For non-Aga days, there is also a Philips white oven and hob in the 21ft kitchen. £300,000 through Savills (01225 444622).



olly Cottage in Bourton-oo-the-Hill, Gloucestershire, has a warm red Aga (gasfired, two-oveo) in its 17ft, beamed kitchen. The Grade II listed four-bedroomed house is tucked down a no-through-road towards the edge of the village, but it's just two miles from the mainline station at Moreton-in-Marsh. A 30ft stone barn provides garaging and storage. The gardens are as ootable for a fine wisteria as they are for holly. £248,000 through Hamptons (01386 852205)



ittle Mariteau House in Winchelsea, East Sussex sports a green, electric two-oveo Aga in the kitcheo, with matching greeo Shaker-style painted units. The Grade II listed Georgian-style period house has a marble-floored reception hall, a conservatory, three bedrooms and a 16ft drawing room with an open fireplace. There is a detached garage at the eod of the 82ft garden. £180,000, through Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338).

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The family that's at home

... to visitors, that is. Rosalind Russell meets the Copes, National Trust tenants

t's the perfect home: a 15th-century water mill with five bedrooms, handmade floor tiles, and a pond well stocked with fish. All for about £6,000 a year. Oh, and every weekend, a steady trail of paying visitors.

The lucky tenants are the Cope family - one of the nine families in the country who rent National Trust properties and must open their doors to the public. The demand is intense, the opportunities rare. This week, competition is expected to be stiff for the recently restored Treasurer's House in Martock, Somerset, which will open three days a week to the public.

The Copes – English teacher Colin and his wife Christina, a huspital sister – could hardly helieve their luck when they became tenants of the White Mill, on the Kingston Lacv estate in Dorset, where they now live with their children. George, four, and 11-year-old Hannah.

The children have had swimming lessons in case they take an impromptu dip (water stands on three sides of the house) and love living in White Mill. The garden has yet to be restored by Colin, an award-winning gardener.

Visitors come to see the water mill and its workings. The wooden 18th-century machinery is a rare survivor of the Industrial Revolution, when most workings were replaced by metal. The supply to drive the mill dried up 100 years ago, but the remaining water is well stocked, and visited by herons and egrets.

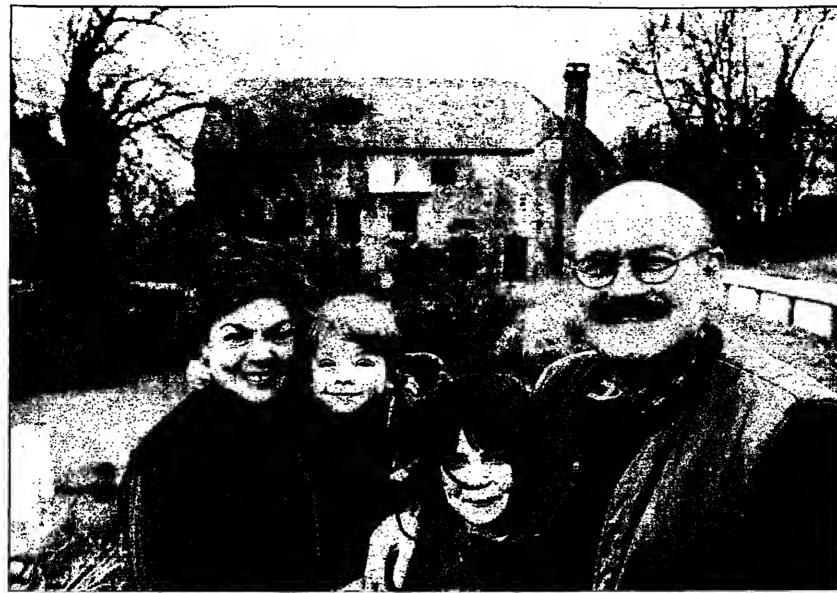
"Last November, during heavy rain, the water covered a lot of the lawn," says Colin, "But the house is a little higher, and although history suggests the water may have come as far as the steps, it has never come into the house.

"It is not like living in a museum," he adds, "George's toys lie around outside, We've no pets at the moment, but we'll have doves to live in the dovecote, and we want some white cats.'

Swapping house ownership for a tenancy wasn't Colin's idea, "I didn't really like where we were living, and felt I was at a crossroads. When my wife saw the mill advertised, she decided to go for it. Now we love the house. It is such a privilege for the children to live here. This morning we saw kingfishers; we have seen swans nesting and hatching."

As the mill is open to the public every weekend, noon until 5pm during the season, summer holidays are taken Monday to Friday. "We don't have days off, hut we could arrange cover if we wanted to. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people I wouldn't otberwise meet."

Colin has taken to life as a NT tenant like a cygnet to a mill pond. When visi-



Where home is a 15th-century watermill: the Copes are one of rune families in the country who rent National Trust property open to the public PHIL YEOMANS/BNS

he can't hurry them. If the conversation is interesting enough he invites them into the garden for a glass of wine. Celia Mead, of the National Trust,

describes the chances of renting a property such as the Treasurer's House in Martock as: "a once-in-five-years opportunity. We get flooded with calls whenever a house becomes available."

As tenants are chosen so carefully, it's rare for someone to throw in the towel before the end of the lease, though it has happened. "It's important they are visi-tor-friendly and considerate," says the

tors arrive late in the afternoon, he feels Trust. "They can usually do things like hang up their own pictures, as long as they don't bang a nail through a medieval wall painting. You don't bave to own antiques. We interview the people, not their furni-

The five-bedroomed, three-reception Treasurer's House dates from the 13th century. The wall painting in the first-floor Solar Room was discovered under a coat of limewash in 1995. The room is to be open to the public along with the 21ft trusses, and the Great Hall with its boxed An assured shorthold tenancy for a term

gallery and wooden door leading to a walled garden. Tenants will have to open for visitors from 2.30pm to 5.30pm Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, from the end of March to the end of September.

The rent is £1,250 a month and the insurance almost £2,500 a year. A normal five-bedroomed house in the area would cost around £750 a month to rent, but the premium isn't likely to scare off discerning tenants. The Trust is responsible for all structural repairs, as well as internal kitchen with its hamstone-arched plumbing, garden paths and drives, so inglenook fireplace and exposed roof maintenance is unlikely to he expensive.

of 10 years is offered through local estate agents Symonds and Sampson in Yeovil (01935 423526).

The National Trust has no central register of houses to let, so trawl local agents. Leases vary at each NT property. Tenants can sometimes keep the entrance fees from vis-

The Trust can advise on any aspect of looking after the property, including specialist garden advisors. Tenants mustn't object to being on show and must be conservation minded. Individual leases deal with any restrictions, such as pets.

Living with the

A house on the line

t could be a signal that British Rail need to raise more money. Or perhaps they hope that frain buffs will have dreams above their

BR have put five of their railway crossing cottages up for auction through Savills Walker Walton. who expect to he knocked over in the rush by bidders. One cottage has already been sold, prior to auction.

It helps that the guide prices start at around £10,00tt, At that price, who cares about having the washing whipped off the line in the backdraught of the 9.05? The cottages - of which four are period - are in Nottingbamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire and all stand within a few feet of the railway lines, which are still in use. The houses are mostly Victorian; they were huilt for signalmen, and are redundant in the days of

automatic crossings.

"We have disposed of crossing cottages for British Rail before." says Chris Charlton, of SWW. They are rare opportunities, and to have this many offered at one time is even rarer. If previous interest is anything to go hy, there will be a record attendance.

Of the four cottages left, two are

tenanted. The other two, both in Lincolnshire, need to be completely modernised. Bidding is likely to start at £10,000 apiece.

Some are in pretty villages: Morton Crossing Cottage - on at a guide price of £20 to £25,000 - is in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. famous for its minster,

Most of the cortages have three bedrooms, and one, in Gosberton. Lincolnshire, has a garden big enough to prevent the owners from coming eyeball to eyeball with passing commuters.

BR say that more properties will be put up for sale in the next few months. The auction is on Thursday, 6 February, in Nottingham, at 3pm. Details frnm Savills Walker Walton (0115 955 2255). And you don't need an anorak in order to hid.

Rosalind Russell

 $P1 \sim$

Must we pay the penalty for arranging a mortgage?

Buying a home is rapidly becoming more and more of a headache for prospective purchasers. The boom in prices means suitable properties are thin on the ground, forcing huyers to pay silly prices for what little is available.

In turn, gazumping – raising the asking price of a home after it has already been agreed with a buyer - is staging a comeback.

Headaches for buyers then. But the problems they face are compounded by the attitudes of some lenders, who sometimes treat would-be borrowers quite hadly.

In some cases they promise attractive rates of interest but within tight deadlines that many clients will not be able to meet. Some mortgage brokers believe that lenders deliberately structure their mortgage offers to ensure high failure num- another property. They told me that

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in part by those who lose their nonrefundable booking fees.

One person who has lost out is Rosanne Priest. Sbe approached C&G, the newlybought mortgage lending arm of Lloyds Bank, fur a loan to huy a house in Cardiff. "I chose C&G because they had a very

attractive five-year fixed interest loan pegged at 7.59 per cent," Ms Priest says. "Before they would consider an offer I had to pay a non-refundable £495 booking fee." She was told in December that com-

pletion would have to take place by the end of February. On the eve of exchange of contracts last week, the vendors pulled out. "I contacted C&G. All I wanted was to

HURFORD

deadline, I would forfeit the fee." A C&G spokeswoman said the mort-

gage involves a series of money-market transactions with fixed time limits which could not be altered and the product itself had been withdrawn on December 8. She adds: "The problem is if we were

to make an exception in this case we would have to do so in many others". Stuart Bernau, a director at Nationwide Building Society, says: "We have arrangement fees. In cases like this, we would aim

to maintain a relationship with a customer who wants to do business with us". Ian Darby, director at John Charcol, one of the UK's largest mortgage brokers, extend the deadline so that I could find says: "Few lenders would insist on imposing them in such cases. It should be said

one of the more attractive ones. "It did not charge a valuation fee. Also it did not have a redemption penalty or charge a mortgage indemnity guarantee, unlike most other lenders." Had Ms Priest asked for a few days more to complete the purchase of the existing property, C&G ruight have complied, Mr Darby suspects.

He adds that C&G may have calculated on a high proportion of loan offers, perhaps 40 per cent, not being taken up when it set its rates. This failure rate, at £495 a time, is twice as high as John Charcol generally experiences for its buyers.

Mark Chilton, marketing director at FirstMortgage, a telephone-based home seven days and complete within 28." loan provider, agrees that Ms Priest's

of many other lenders and generally we find that they are prepared to be flexible. "We would not charge them another

arrangement fee for a new loan." Two people whu found buying much less stressful than expected were Barry Dance and his partner Hayley Cattermole.

Mr Dance, a car parts executive wbo lives near Colchester, in Essex, says: "We saw a bouse we liked, but the estate agent said that it had already been sold. Then, we saw a For Sale board outside it again and spoke to the agent again. He told us that the house was on the market once more, but we bad to exchange within

The couple contacted Steve Lidford, experience is rare: "We offer a wide vari- bome loan expert at The Mortgage

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bers. Cheap headline rates are subsidised unless I was able to do so by the existing in defence of C&G that its mortgage was ety of mortgages of our own, plus those Bureau, part of the Mortgage Intelligence network of more than 400 brokers throughout the UK.

Mr Lidford was able to arrange a mortgage from Bank of Ireland, which is about to take over Bristol & West Building Society, inside the deadline set by the vendor.

Steve Royal, managing director at Mortgage Intelligence, says the incidence of vendors pulling out at the last minute is increasing: "Buyers are worried [that] they may lose out. We have responded by mobilising several of our mortgage providers. Also we generally do not charge any application fee."

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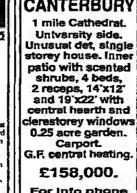
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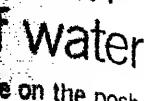
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> best possible pension on retirement. Annuities provide that mechanism for many millions of people, whether

sonal pension plans. In either case, contributions made into their schemes retirement, the lump sum buys an annual pensioner's life. But this oot an issue purely for those

on the verge of giving up work. Knowing how much income a lump sum will





members of so-called money-purchase provide on retirement helps to deter- annuitant is prepared to ensure depencompany pension schemes or with per- mine the level of contribution into one's dants are protected after their death. All existing pension. For some, it may also of these options can have the effect of lay the ground for starting a pension in throughoot their working lives are the first place. Annuities are broadly calinvested to produce a lump sum. On culated on the basis of returns paid on income, or annuity, for the rest of the At present, a lump sum of about £100,000 might buy someone aged 65 an income of about £11,000. The most important thing to remember is that annuities involve an actuarial gamble are age, sex and the health of the policyholder. The older one is when an annuity begins to be paid, the larger it will be.
Someone hoping to retire at 55 instead
of 65 might barely get £9,000 a year from
a £100,000 hump sum.

A variety of whistles and bells can enhance certain aspects of retirement income - at the expense of the amount you receive. For example, altering the frequency of the income paid from annually to monthly can cost about 7 per cent of income. Probably of greater independent financial advisers. The Annuimportance is the extent to which an ity Bureau: 0171 620 4090.

cutting retirement income to a fraction of what was originally hoped for.

There are ways round this. One way long-dated gilts, or government bonds. is to protect income by buying a withprofits or unit-linked annuity with the lump sum. These annuities are a form of continuing investment, delivering immediate, but initially lower, income while allowing the underlying fund to grow and between ourselves and the companies we hopefully pay out more in years to deal with - over our own mortality. The come. With some companies you decide three key determinants in this gamble on how much income to take. One annuity from Equitable Life assumes an anticipated bonus of 6 per cent each year. If that target is achieved, payments remain level. Should boouses rise beyond that, so does income.

that the best thing to do was to sell the house, split everything 50/50 again and buy two smaller properties. In the event I was given a flat

We got married again bought a big new house and had two more children. to use at the school. After I moved, a paying-in book for a new bank account

tact because of the children and after three years apart she suggested that we get back together.

job as headmaster, but unfortu-

nately it meant moving. My wife

was half-way through a new

training course, so we agreed

In 1984, I was offered my first came through the post. Apparently I was supposed to put mooey into it, but since the account was in the name of "Ms Munro". I sent it back and said I didn't know who this person

> It was only by chance that I later found out my wife had told the local authority she was separated.

When she told me I wasn't welcome back. I moved in with

my mother. It was around 1988 wheo I was invited to renew the relationship. The house was too small for all of us, so we bought

a bigger one. But three years ago, shortly before our 25th anniversary, and apropos of nothing at all my wife handed me a note saying she was leaving. She had already rented

another house. Inevitably she asked for a James Munro, not his real name, divorce, and both sets of lawyers was talking to Corinne Simcock.

said that all our belongings should be divided 50/50 - again Aside from that, the divorce

went through fairly smoothly. I'm not bitter, just broke. I was a complete twerp for letting it happen to me three times. Last year she said she wanted to recew the relationship 'at least on a frieodly basis ..

As I lay dying

James Munro, 65, is an educa-

[In the early 1960s I founded

caps. It was then that I met my wife. We got married and I bought a house. We had two wonderful children, but by 1972

the marriage had brokeo down.

It was entirely my fault and we

split the property 50/50.

a group of homes for chil-

dren with multiple handi-

Nic Cicutti reviews annuities for all seasons

rirst it was smokers, then it was fatties. Earlier this week, the increasing fragmentation in the market for pension annuities gathered pace after one company offered a higher retiremeet income to potential clients - as loog as they are dying, anyway,

Stalwart Assurance annouoced it would enhance the annual retirement income paid to people suffering from cancer, kidney failure, multiple sclerosis, strokes, heart attacks, chronic asthma and diabetes.

Its offer expands on its previous target audiences - smokers - who were promised higher annuity rates when they retired, on the grounds that they are likely to die sooner than their oonaddicted counterparts. The success of this policy allowed it to be offered to overweight people, also classed as a sig-nificant health risk, as long as they were more than 25 per cent over "normal" body weight.

Experts on this field fully support Stal-wart's initiative. Peter Quinton, who runs the Annuity Bureau, a company specialising in finding retirement planning, says: "What was viewed by some as a gimmick has remained ooe of the most competitive rates on the market and a worthwhile option for many loog-

In effect, by paying them the same as those in good health Stalwart will no longer penalise those who die early. Stalwart's shrewd marketing ploy also raises the questioo of how people ensure the

Selecting the right annuity requires proper advice. Ensuring your future means setting aside enough so that when the time to buy the annuity comes, the best choices are oot too painful.

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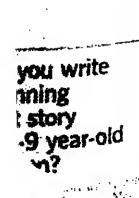
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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. AFIts variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the mortgage rate applicable during the fixed rate period (which will run from the data interest is first charged in respect of the mortgage) will apply for the full term of the loan. However, the rate is variable and, from 1.3.99, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in foct, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 9.1.97 and the mortgage completed by 30.8.97. Typical example: based on an endowment mortgage interest rate of 5.49% and a purchase price of £70,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £65,000 (from which a Higher Percentage Advance Fee of £1062.50 will be deducted) over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 83% of the Society's valuation of the property) wided pay interest of £297.88 per month gross (300 payments). Accorded interest £148.69. Valuatin's the £155. Application fee £155. Solicitor's mortgage charges £125. Decide Administration Fee towards from the mortgage starts in the middle of the month, a minimum guaranteed death benefit of £65,000 and a term of 25 years for the endowment policy. A first charge over your property will also be required to represent towards, a suitable endowment policy. PEP or pension plan will also be required. A suitable level term assurance policy will also be required for PEP or pension plan will also be required. A suitable level term assurance policy will also be required for PEP or pension plan will also be required to which a Higher Percentage Advance Fee will be possible. If the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another scheme before 1.3.2002, a fee equivelent to 8 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of repayment will be charged. Remongages available up to 90% loan to value. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A sulfage Society represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Invasoment Authority for life





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Best savings rates

First the good news

Rates lift for savers

Interest rates are on the up. clearly bad news for mortgage borrowers. But for millions of small savers. who have seen returns on their deposits decline in the past two years, there is at least one small silver lining. In the past few weeks.

banks and building societies have been steadily adjusting their accounts upwards.

Christine Bayliss, investment editor at MoneyFacts. the financial information provider, says: *Rates are definitely moving upwards. on average between 0.2 and 0.5 per cent. What we have found is two main areas of competition. The first is over instant access postal accounts, with several new accounts opening.

"The second is in the market for short-term fixed rates. These have been very popular, with several closing early after taking all the money they need to."

Among those to have withdrawn their products are Nationwide. Derbyshire and Newcastle building societies,

Rises detailed by Moncy-Facts in the past month include Alliance & Leicester which shifted its Instant Direct account from 5.9 to 6.06 per cent on deposits over £10,000. Bristol & West raised its Postal Direct account from 6 to 6.4 per cent for the same deposit.

New postal accounts being launched include Melton Mowbray, offering 5.75 per cent on accounts of £10,000, Northern Rock's Select Instant paying 6.35 per cent for the same amount and Stroud & Swindon, offering 5.75 per cent.

Short-term rates in high demand include a new Bristol & West offering at 6.75 per cent to May 1 1998; Cheshire, which promises 7 per cent on deposits over £25,000 and Prudential Banking offering 7.05 per cent over 16 months on

deposits above £10,000, Norwich and Peterborough is still offering 6.75 per cent on deposits of £5,000, pegged for one year.

Nic Cicutti



New Mortgage Interest Rates

From 1 February 1997, Dunfermline Building Society's new variable mortgage rate for owner-occupiers will be 6.99% pa gross.

Notice to Existing Borrowers

From 1 February 1997, the Society's variable rates of interest for existing borrowers will be iocreased by 0.25% pa gross. For borrowers who have a fixed rate mortgage, this change will come into effect oo completion of the fixed period.

Borrowers on the budget repayment scheme are not required to take any action at this time and individual ootices will be issued to borrowers outwith the scheme.

Dunfermine Building Society Caledonia House Carnegie Avenue Dunfermiine KY11 5PJ Tel 01383 627727

| | | | | | | | Dadasadias | |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | Telephone | % Rate and period | Max adv % | Fæ | incent | ive | Redemption penalty | |
| MORTGAGES | | 1 | . • | | • • | . : . | | |
| Fixed rates | | | | | | | | |
| | 0800 126125 | 4.90 to 1/1/99 | 85 | £250 | _ | | To 1/1/02: 6mi | |
| West Bromwich BS | | 6.55 to 1/11/99 | 85 | £250 | £300 i | ash rebate | 1st 6 yrs; 6% | |
| 8ristol & West BS Variable rates | 0800 119955 | 6.99 to 1/1/01 | 90 | £275 | _ | | То 3 <u>1/12/</u> 01: 6 | |
| -,, | 0800 774499 | 4.15% lor 2 years | 80 | £250 | Free v | ain | 1st 5 yrs. disc | |
| | 0191 295 9500 | 4.99% for 3 years | 90 | - | _ | | 1st 6 yrs: 5% | |
| | 0151 948 1444 | 5.84% for 5 years | 70 | _ | \$200 (| ash lebate | 1s1 5 yrs: reba | DB & COLSC F |
| First time buyers f Lambeth BS | | 5 40 L 1 M MO | nē. | £295 | | | 1st 5 yrs: 6 mi | he interce |
| | 0800 225221 0800 080088 | 5.20 to 1/3/99 6.35 to 1/4/00 | 95 90 | £295 | <u> </u> | | To 1/4/03: 6% | |
| | 0800 119955 | 7.48 to 1/1/02 | 90 | £275 | | | To 31/12/02. 6 | |
| First time buyers | | | | ~,0 | | | | |
| • | 01902 317317 | 2.23 to 1/3/98 | 90 | _ | _ | | 1s1 5 yrs: 5% | of sum rep |
| Greenwich BS | 0181 858 8212 | 4.19% for 2 years | 95 | _ | _ | | 1st 5 yrs: disc | |
| Northern Rock BS | 0800 591500 | 5.74% to 1/3/02 | 9 5 | £295 | Refund | i valn fee | 1st 7 yrs: 5% | of sum rep |
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| | Telephone | APR % | Max LTV | | | | .000 over 3 years | |
| Unsecured | | | | | ISUT AB CI | • | Without insur | ance |
| Northern Rock BS | | 12.9H | | £112.6 | _ | | £102.59 £101.45 | |
| Royal B of Scotland Nationwide BS | via local branch | 14.0 14.9 | | £114.7 £113.1 | | | £101.45 £102.49 | |
| Secured (second c | | 143 | | | V Advan | ce | Term | |
| Clydesdale Bank | • | 7.8 | Neg | | | - | 6 mths to 25 y | 92/5 |
| Royal 8 of Scotland | | 9.0 | 70% | | | | 3 years to retir | |
| • | 0345 100103 | 9.5 | 80% | £5K-ne | g. | | Up to 40 years | |
| OVERDRAFTS | V. 21 (11) 99 | و در ورسیده برای در در در در باشده ای و در شده کنده | X 12 | 1.0 | ران المواد وفرائط أرضي | | ar Garage | |
| | | | Authori | | | ocised ' | | |
| | Telephone | Account | % pm | APR | % pm | | APR | |
| | | | | | 2.18 | | 29.5 | |
| Woolwich BS | 0800 400900 | Current | 0.84 | 10.5 | | | | |
| Woolwich BS Alliance & Leicester | 0500 959595 | Affiance | 0.84 0.76 | 9.5 | 2.20 | | 29.8 | |
| Woolwich BS Alliance & Leicester Bank of Scotland | 0500 959595 0800 805805 | Affiance Direct Cheque | | | | (75277.A) | 29.8 26.5 | |
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Source, MONEYFACTS 01692 500677

30 January 1997

| | Telephone numbet | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate | int |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| INSTANT ACCESS | | | 7/4 | | , 133. | |
| Portman BS | 01202 292444 | Instant Access | Instant | £100 | 4 70 5.13 | Year Mon |
| Bank of Scotland | 0500 804804 | Instant Access Savings | Instant | £5,000 £10,000 | 5.60 | Mon |
| Bank of Scotland | 0500 804804 | tostant Access Savings | Instant Instant | £10,000 | 5.75 | Year |
| Oirect Line | 0181 667 1121 | Instant Savings | INSTALL | 200,000 2 - 100,000 2 - 100,000 | Isaa Viid | |
| DISTANT ACCESS P | | | Postal | £1.000 | 5.60 | Year |
| Melton Mowbray BS | 01664 480214 | Pos Direct Select Instant | Postal | £5.000 | 6 35 | Year |
| Northern Rock BS | 0500 505000 0800 901109 | Instant Postal | Postal | £10,000 | 6.40 | Year |
| Bristol & West BS Northern Rock BS | 0500 505000 | Select instant | Postal | 250,000 | 6.45 | Year |
| ACTICE ACCOUNTS | E BONDS | | | ٠ | | |
| Chelsea BS | 0800.132351 | POST-tel 20 | 20 day P | 25,000 | 6.05 | Year |
| First National BS | 0500 505000 | 30 Day Notice | 30 day P | £10,000 | 6.30 6.50 | Year |
| Northern Rock BS | 0500 505000 | Salect 60 | 60 day P | £10,000 £25,000 | 6.75 | Year |
| Manchester BS | 0161 833 8898 | Aubilee | 75 day | 523,000 90.00030,000000 | | |
| THE OFFICE AND IS | | | kıstant | £2,500 | 5.20 | Mon |
| Kleinwort Benson | 0800 317477 0171 626 0879 | HICA HICA 5000 | Instant | 25,000 | 5.25 | Mor |
| Investor Bank (UK) Halifax BS | 01/1 020 00/3 | Asset Reserve | Instant | £10,000 | 4.25 | Qua |
| Chelsea BS | 0800 717515 | Classic Postal | Instant | £10,000 | 4.50 | Year |
| FIXED HATE BOND | S | | CANALTY III | | | |
| Norwich & Peterborough | | Fixed Rate Bond | 1 Year | €5,000 | 6.75F | Mat Mat |
| Bristol & West BS | 0800 202121 | Year Plus Bood | 1/5/98 | £5,000 | 6.75F 6.75F | Mai |
| Cheshire BS | 0800 243278 | One Year Plus Bond | 30/6/98 16 Month | £5,000 £10,000 | 7.05F | Mat |
| Prudential Banking | 0800 000222 | Fixed Rate Savings | 10 MONU 125787 7 1 | Profession (C. | and the second | . ; . |
| ERSETESSAS : | | The state of the s | 5 years | £8,575 | 7.50F | Year |
| Sun Banking Corp | 01438 744505 0800 200400 | Fixed Rate TESSA Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £5,000 | 7.45F | Year |
| NatWest Bank Investec Bank (UK) | 0171 626 0879 | Liver units import | 5 years | 000,02 | 7.20 | Yea |
| West 8remwich BS | 0990 143568 | | 5 years | £3,000 | 7 00 | Year |
| TO TO SOUTH SEA | | | | 医表表工 | 7.7 | Sulfi Management |
| Sun Banking Corporation | | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £9,000 £5,000 | 7.50F 7.45F | Year |
| NatWest Bank | 0800 200400 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years 5 years | 29,000 | 7.20 | Year |
| National Counties BS West Bromwich BS | 01372 74777 1 0990 143668 | | 5 years | £250 | 7.00 | Year |
| SCIALING DING | ME BONUS LO | metalia. | | die | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| Financial Assurance | 0181 380 3388 | | 1 year | 25,000 | 5.30FN | |
| Pinnacle Insurance | 0181 207 9007 | | 2 year | £3,000 | 5.90FN 5.95FN | Yea |
| Pinnacle Insurance | 0181 207 9007 | | 3 years | £3,000 £20,000 | 6.30FN | Year |
| Financial Assurance Pinnacle Insurance | 0181 380 3388 0181 207 9007 | | 4 years 5 years | £3.000 | 6,40FN | Year |
| OFFSHORE ACTION | | 44565156T | MENTINE | agen in graph of an | 70.7 | |
| N'castle Bank Gibraltar | | Nova Access | Instant | £25,000 | 6.30 | Year |
| Northern Rock, Guern | 01481 714600 | Offshore 30 | 30 day | £10,000 | 6.55 | Year |
| Altiance & Leicester Int | 01624 663566 | Fixed Rate Bond | 2 Year | £10,000 | 7.10F | Year |
| Northern Rock, Guern | 01481 714600 | Millennium Bond | 1/1/00 | £10,000 | 7.50F | Yea |
| NATIONAL SAVINGS | ACCOUNTS: | made to the last | 1 month | £20 | 4.75 | Yea |
| Investment Accounts | | | T LIGHT | £20 £500 | 5.25 | Year |
| | | | | £25,000 | 5.50 | Year |
| Income Bonds | | | 3 months | £2,000 | 6.00 | Mor |
| | | | | £25,000 | 6.25 | Mor |
| Capital Bond | | Series J | 5 years | £100 | 6.65F | Mat |
| First Option Bonds | | | 12 months | £1,000 £20,000 | 6.00F 6.25F | Year |
| Descionarie C'Isad Isaas | no Dond | Series 3 | 5 year | £20,000 £500 | 7.DOF . | Mor |
| Pensioner's G'teed Incom NS Certificates (tax-free) | | 43rd Issue | 5 year | £100 | 5.35F | Mal |
| IN Certificated fravillact | | 9th Index linked | 5 year | £100 | 2.50+1 | i Mal |
| Children's Bond | | Issue H | 5 year | £25 | 6.75F | Mat |
| | | | | | | |

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Managing your money for the longer term

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 1997

To be – or not to be – in equities?

ach year, when BZW pub-lishes its annual gilts/equity study, it makes the long-term case for investing in equities just about as plainly as it can be done, Over the period since 1991, it

quantifies how consistently shares have outperformed the other main asset classes, gilts and cash.

8.11 per cent in real terms comfortably exceeds the 1.87 per cent available oo gilts and the 1.48 per cent annual return on cash. In both cases, over any four-year period, history suggests that there is more than a three-in-four chance that the stock market will produce a bigher return than either cash or gilts.

Long-term investors, so the headlines report, are more than amply compensated for the extra risk they take oo in the stock market.

So much is well known. But what makes the study most interesting, to my mind, are the secondary details that most often get overlooked when the results are reported each Janu-

First are BZW's observations about the overall level of the stock market. Drawing on a number of different valuation techniques, including the pioneering approach of the American financial economist Robert Shiller, BZW calculates a

prices should be by historic standards, and then compares this with the actual level of the stock market.

For at least five years now, the BZW study has been flagging up the fact that share prices today are way above their historic "fair value"

Set classes, gilts and cash.

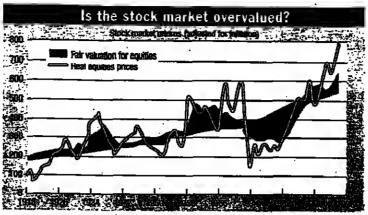
The loog-run annual return of 11 per cent in real terms comfort-bly exceeds the 1.87 per cent avail-ble oo gilts and the 1.48 per cent avail-ble on cash lo both case.

You thought this was a raging bull market? Well, you are right. In fact, as the chart shows, it is looking as highly valued oow — after yet another strong year last year—than it has dead in always a raging bull market? Well, you are right. In fact, as the chart shows, it is looking as mother strong year last year—than it has dead in always a raging bull market? Well, you are right. In fact, as the chart shows, it is looking as mother strong year last year—than it has dead in always a raging bull market? Well, you are right. In fact, as the chart shows, it is looking as highly valued oow—after yet another strong year last year—than it has dead in always a raging bull market? Well, you are right. In fact, as the chart shows, it is looking as highly valued oow—after yet another strong year last year—than it has dead in always a raging bull market? Well, you are right. In fact, as the chart shows, it is looking as highly valued oow—after yet another strong year last year—than it has dead in the properties. it has done in almost any previous period, including the so-called golden age of the 1950s. According to BZW, the current

bull market phase, from 1982 to the present, has not only produced consistently higher returns (an average of over 12 per cent a year in real terms, more than 50 per cent above the long-run average) but done so with lower risk than in the past (measuring risk by the standard academie measure of volatility of

Michael Hughes, head of eco-nomics at BZW, quite rightly observes that just because a stock market is overhauled on a long-term basis does not mean it is going to stop going up next year. It takes time for hull and bear market phases to work through their cycles.

It is the direction, not the absolute "fair value" band for where share level of the market, which matters great "cult of the equity", the post-



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most. It so happens that the prevailing conditions since the early 1980s - falling real interest rates, steady economie growth and declin-ing inflationary expectations – have been unduly favourable not just to shares but to almost all types of

investment, including gilts.

Real returns on gilts have also been higher since the early 1980s than in any previous period, with the single exception of the between-war years. That, of course, was a period when inflation was negative for part of the time (which greatly favoured any fixed-interest investment such as

It also pre-dated the start of the

war realisation by pension funds and other investment institutions that, in an inflationary world, equities were not only a - but the most - suitable investment for organisations with long-term liabilities to meet.

The old stock market saying, "Let the trend be your friend," is there-fore still very much in force. It is perfectly consistent to say that the stock market is overvalued and cannot continue this way for ever, while at the same time acknowledging that it may indeed go on doing well until there is a fundamental change in the direction of interest rates, the economy or inflation expectations. It may well be (as I am inclined to suspect)

the absolute bottom of the longterm interest rate cycle, notwith-standing the likely increase in short-

term UK rates next year.

The BZW study is just as interesting – but less convincing – when it moves oo to analysing risk and optimal portfolio mixes. If you accept that standard deviation is a good measure of risk, then the case against gilts and in favour of equities is clear-cut. The historical data shows that the stock market has generally been one-and-a-half times more volatile than gilts, and threeand-a-half times more volatile than the returns from cash. As the returns from shares are anywhere between three and six times as great as those on gilts, the case for filling your portfolio with equities is overwhelming in a statistical sense - the extra risk

is amply compensated. But this is where I think the BZW analysis starts to go off the rails, on the standard "garbage in, garbage out" principle. Standard deviation is one measure of risk, but In practice, the risk of losing money, which is what many investors ultithe recent phase in the level of long-

it is not one that accurately captures the full dimensions of what risk means to most real-world investors. mately care about, from gilts during term interest rates has been very

MBNA International and NatWest

So, if you occasionally stray over

your limit or fail to meet a payment

deadline, it is essential to read the

permanent debt. Perhaps the best

move for those with a permanent

debt on their credit card is to take

out a personal loan over two years,

pay off their credit card and then

operate their finances oo a "oo

credit' basis. This means paying off

their credit card in full each mooth.

John Andrew is compliance manager

at Midland Bank. He writes in a per-

sonal capacity. The Independent will

investigate Midland's card charges in

Credit cards were not designed for

small print.

a separate piece.



Jonathan Davis

'You thought this was a raging bull market? You are right. It is looking as highly valued now than it has done in almost any previous period'

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Credit cards that lead you on

Read the small print before you switch companies, warns John Andrew

to gain each other's costomers. Cardholders are being bombarded with senior researcher at consumer mag-direct mail, while advertisemeots azine Which?, says: "Teaser rates can leap out from the pages of magazines be a useful way of keeping down the and papers. To tempt a change of cost of borrowing oo your credit allegiance in the plastie war, there card." are offers of low interest rates and the promise of saving pounds. It all

sounds so tempting. away from our usual cards is low interest rates for an introductory period. The marketing infantry calls could be forgiven for thinking this rate applies all the time, but the '97." The 7.9 per cent is in type oce-

introductory offers. Malcolm Coles,

However, he warns: "Watch out for mertia. Once the teaser period is up, you'll be switched to the nor-One of the tactics used to wean us mal rate which can be much higher."

Take the Co-operative Bank's advertisement for its Visa card: "UK's lowest balance transfer rate. these "teasers". The casual reader Transfer your balance for 7.9 per cent APR guaranteed until July

APR for the remaining balance transferred. Then there is the throwaway line, "The rate for new card purchases is 21.7 per cent APR", which appears in type one-twelfth of an inch high. Whisk oot a magnifying glass and you will discover in the small print that the saving is based oo transferring £3,000 from a Barclays Visa on the assumption that the

If the Co-op's offer is not all that it seems, some people who take advantage of a card issued by People's Bank could be in for another shock. Its direct mail describes it as teasers only apply for a matter of quarter inch thick and one-and-a- a "no-nonsense card that offers the holders with ancillary charges are

balance remains constant.

here is a war going oo - the months and sometimes only to balnation's credit card companies ances transferred from rival cards.

Now, there is oothing wrong with in July the rate will increase to 19.5

half inches high. The copy states this flexibility and cootrol of other credit means you could save op to £150, but cards", but there is no annual fee and in July the rate will increase to 19.5

the current APR is just 14.4 per cent. the current APR is just 14.4 per cent. This about a third less than other cards. So what's the catch? The terms and conditions reveal

that if the credit limit is exceeded on any statement, there is a £10 charge. If the minimum payment is not received by the dne date, there is a £10 charge and if a card is lost or stolen, there is a £10 charge.

Ron Urquhart, managing director of People's Bank in the UK, says: "To maintain our best-value approach we took the decision to impose a charge on those few who don't meet their minimum monthly payments."

Other issuers which penalise card-

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| | | IT ACCOUNTS | Interest payabl | | |
|-----------|-------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Premiur | | | GROSS RATES | | |
| (metudi | ng . | Eloo,000+ | 6,15% | (ILLUSTRA | |
| £50,000 | | £99,999 | 5.95% | 4.92% 4.76% | |
| £25,000 | - | • | 5.60% | | |
| £10,000 | - | £49,999 £24,999 | 5.20% | 4.48% 4.16% | |
| 210,000 | - | 227,777 | J.2070 | 4.1070 | |
| Premiur | n S | fiares £100,000+ | 5.05% | 4.04% | |
| £50,000 | | - | 4.85% | | |
| - | • | £99,999 | | 3.88% | |
| £25,000 | | £49,999 | 4.45% | 3.56% | |
| £10,000 | | £24,999 | 3.95% | 3.16% | |
| £5,000 | • | £ 9,999 | 3.55% | 2.84% | |
| £500 | - | £ 4,999 | 3.05% | 2.44% | |
| Dunferm | lin | | | | |
| | | £25,000+ | 3.70% | 2.96% | |
| £10,000 | • | £24,999 | 3.40% | 2.72% | |
| £5,000 | - | £ 9,999 | 3.15% | 2.52% | |
| £2,500 | - | £ 4,999 | 2.90% | 2.32% | |
| £500 | • | £ 2,499 | 2.65% . | 2.12% | |
| £100 | • | £ . 499 | 0.50% | 0.40% | |
| HeadSta | ert / | Account | | | |
| El or mor | e | | 2.70% | 2.16% | |
| Dunferm | line | Direct (from 3 Janu | rary 1997) | | |
| | | £50,000+ | 6.45% | 5.16% | |
| £25,000 | • | £49,999 | 6.25% | 5.00% | |
| 210,000 | | £24,999 | 5.95% | 4.76% | |
| £5,000 | - | £ 9,999 | 5.25% | 4.20% | |
| £2,000 | _ | £ 4,999 | 4.35% | 3.48% | |
| Dunferm | din | Tessas (Sixth Issu | •) | | |
| | | £9,000+ | 6.25% | | |
| C6,000 | - | £8,999 | 6.10% | | |
| £3,000 | - | £5.999 | 5.90% | | |
| 0013 | - | £2,999 | 5.40% | | |

Interest rates for this account include bonus interest of 0.75% gross p.a. payable if no withdrawals are made in the 12 months prior to the annual interest due date of 30 September.

6.65%

5.65%

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Details of the rates of interest applicable to all other investment accounts including closed issues are available from any branch office. TAX ARRANGEMENTS

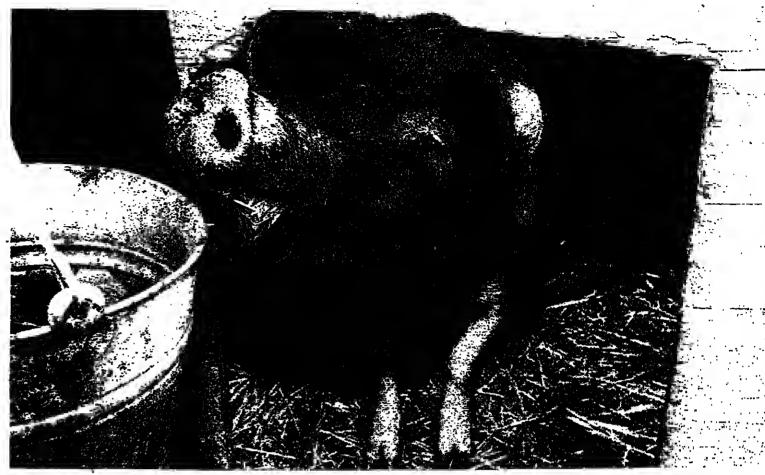
Interest payable on or after 6 April 1996 will be paid or credited after deduction of income tax at the lower rate of 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For details and a registration form for payment of interest gross, please see Inland Revenue leaflet IR110 or call in to your local branch office. The net rates quoted are for illustrative purposes assuming relevant rate of tax being 20%.

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Sid burns his fingers

Dido Sandler looks at the prospects for British Gas



looking for when British Gas was privatised, it is doubtful whether he is grateful to have been detected.

In all likelihood he is among the more than 1.75 million small investors still holding British Gas shares. But according to experts, anyone holding BG shares before the company's demerger later this month could be left with a bloody nose.

The warning compounds investor misery following British Gas's dreadful performance in the past few years. Since privatisation the stock has underperformed the Footsie 100 share index by 33.5 per cent. The recent dispute with the industry regulator over price cuts for the pipeline network, now being investigated by the Monopolies Commission, has knocked the share price by more than 25 per ceot.

Yet on 12 February shareholders will convene in Biriningham to vote on the demerger of British Gas plc into two separate companies, Centrica

husiness Transco, as well as interna- it is bound to slash Centrica's cus-

f someone ever found Sid, the tional oil and gas exploration and procharacter everyone was meant to be duction business. For each British Gas share owned, investors receive one Centrica and one BG share.

Although all 1.75 million shareholders will be entitled to take part in the ballot, in practice their vote will not mean much. As usual, institutional shareholders, who own 67 per cent of the company's stock, are expected to wave the demerger through.

British Gas says the split will allow the two sides of the husiness to concentrate on their own separate commercial directions, after pressure from the industry regulator, Ofgas. The demerger is seen as a revival plan for a company still dogged with problems.

Centrica is faced with £30bo of uneconomic "take-or-pay" supply con-

tracts at inflated prices. It has renegotiated some with BP and Mohil, at, considerable cost and expects later this year to settle others. But the hurdeo remains huge.
Theo there's competitioo. British

Gas's share of the industrial market Ceotrica will run the UK gas suptition for domestic customers is advising clients to sell their British Gas the MMC inquiry reports, as the key ply, showrooms and service side, and already on trial in the South-west of stocks immediately. "I don't think date to look out for. Sid, meanwhile, control the vast and valuable More England where British Gas has lost either of the two parts of the split cambe Bay gas fields. BG will com-prise the heavily regulated pipeline By the time it goes nation-wide in 1998 tive."

tomer base. Managed decline is the name of the game.

So that's the Centrica side of the equation. At BG, meanwhile, the MMC inquiry could see the company's revenues hit from April by as much as £400m a year, as domestic gas hills fall by around £30, if Ofgas gets its way. Centrica has already said it cannot foresee when it will pay a dividend. BG, owner of the lucrative pipeline network, should be the cash cow. But its dividend policy is almost entirely in the hands of the MMC. If it comes off

hadly, so will investors. But analysts say the effect in the short- to medium-term of unresolved issues will mean, at best, share instability and slashed dividends. At worst, shares could be in for a hammering.

While shares have delivered well recently, up to 217p yesterday morning compared with 135p in 1986, investors could do better by taking their money elsewhere.

Anthea Gaukroger, investment analyst in the private client departhas slumped to 35 per cent. Compe- meot of hrokers Greig Middleton, is be more vigilant, with 14 April, when titioo for domestic customers is advising clients to sell their British Gas the MMC inquiry reports, as the key

Although prices will be set by the Adviser

market, and will only be known when trading commences on 17 February, Greig Middleton predicts Centrica will be priced at 45p-55p, and BG will be sold at 165p-175p. Alan Marshall, director of energy research at Robert Fleming Securities, believes BG shares will fetch just 130p, and Cen-

trica 50p-60p. So is it all doom and gloom? One theory is that if private investors were able to wait 18 months, they might see Centrica's shares rise back to 100p. Should the MMC's April decision turn out more benign than expected, or if overseas explorations fared well, BG shares may also go up Another city analyst, who wishes to remain nameless. says he has told his 60-year-old father to hold his shares. He says: "British Gas has been such an awful investment to date, it's not likely to get worse."

He adds that whereas with other utility stocks, investors can simply lock share certificates in a drawer and wait for the dividend cheques, punters with BG and Centrica shares need to wishes he could simply fade away.

Dido Sandler writes for Financial

Knowing the form is everything

In the first of a series on tax, John Whiting explains how codings work

at source under the PAYE system and that includes 22 million or so of us - are starting to receive notification of their tax code for the 1997/98 tax year. These innocuous-looking docu-

ments (summaries also go to employers) determine how much disappears from pay packets into the pockets of the Inland Revenue. Codings are essentially a guess based on the information the Revenue has from the year before and some sources have put the henefits you receive from your number of incorrect codings as high employer. Car and fuel benefit calcunumber of incorrect codings as high as 80 per cent.

This can lead to underpaying, or overpaying, tax during the year. So what is this notice that you've just received and no doubt instinctively put at the back of a drawer?

One side of the coding notice will be marked "tax allowances" and calculates your total tax-free allowances. deducted from the personal allowance of £4,045 leaving allowances of £3,045. shown will be the personal allowance (to which everyone is entitled) and the married couple's allowance.

Under self-assessment, to be intro-

other allowances shown here are likely aware if they are applicable to you.
The other side of the form will be

headed "Amounts Taken Away". Most importantly, this section covers the lations are shown in the Inland Revenue guide which accompanies the tax

The two sections are set against each other, which will produce a positive or a negative figure. If, for example, in 1997/98 a single person has benefits and restriction £6,000, that exceeds allowance by £1,955.

The figures in the code will therefore be 304 (as in the first three numbers in £3,045), which will then be followed by a letter (either L, H, Por V). duced in April, the Reveoue is trying Usually the letter is L, which means a tax coding being incorrect come to make tax codings more compre- the single allowance only; H links to when there has been a change in your

axpayers who have tax deducted hensive, so this section may also the married allowance. P to pensions. include personal pension relief or Things start to get confusing with loan interest for those people who do restrictions which hit the amounts not receive tax relief under Miras. taken away. The Revenue will restrict Some employment expenses not reim- some of the allowances, such as marbursed by your employer may also be ried couple's allowance, as relief is shown here as an allowance. Any only given at 15 per cent. The restriction in your coding recovers excessive to he self-explanatory and you will be relief and is the difference between your top rate of tax and 15 per cent.

The state pension is also included in this section. In addition, the Revenue is incorporating items of untaxed income, such as property income and untaxed interest, into this section. Putting all this together, and throw-

ing in benefits from the employer, it can mean that the amounts taken away are higger than the allowances. Going back to the earlier example, if benefits and restrictions amounted to £6.000, that exceeds the personal

This is dealt with by the K code system: the taxpayer would get a code of K194, from the first three figures of the negative amount reduced by 1.

As noted earlier, many tax codes are wrong. The most frequent instances of

personal or financial circumstances you've got married, you receive a company car (or give it up), you buy a new property and rent it out.

Start

10 re

These are the times when it is most important to check your coding notice, as the amount of tax deducted will be going wrong. This could be good or bad news; either way you should know about it.

It is tempting to ignore an underpayment, but do bear in mind that the Revenue will catch up in due course. As for an overpayment - as most people don't complete a tax return at the end of the year, you might never get it back unless you look at your code.

If you believe your notice of coding is wrong you should contact the issuing office. The phone number is on the notice. A revised notice of coding will he sent to you and your employer.

It is a surprisingly simple procedure and one that could save difficulties when the end of the year arrives and you realise that you forgot to include the Inland Revenue in the list of people to tell about your marriage.

John Whiting is a tax partner at Price



loose change

CaterDeal, part of Cater Allen, the stockbrokers, is setting up a "bed and breakfast" hotline for investors who want to minimise capital gains liabilities by selling shares and huying them back on either side of the 5 April tax year. Commission rates are £24, plus official charges. Call 01708 738555.

Edinburgh Fund Managers

is launching an investment

trust PEP that invests in a range of 11 underlying investment trusts. Initial charges are £30 plus VAT, waived until the eod of April 1997, plus an annual management fee of 0.5 per cent. Minimum lump sum investments are £250, or £30 monthly. Call 0800 838993 for details.

Royal Bank of Scotland is launching a private medical insurance policy, offering four levels of medical cover, hased oo a choice of hospitals and excess options. The plan is jointly arranged with Perpetual is launching an Guardian Health, n subsidiary of Guardian Royal Exchange. Call 0800 455565.

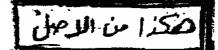
Gartmore, the fuod manager, is scrapping initial charges into its range of investment trusts. Annual

vary depending on the fund. Minimum monthly contributioos are £100, or £1,500 for a lump sum,

off-shore roll-up Income Accumulator fund, investing The Association of Investin bond and money markets. Income is reinvested gross. The fund is Jersey-based so that tax is only payable on encashment. The minimum contribution is £1,500. There

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ment Trust Companies is offering a free consumer fact sheet for savers considering the trusts for pension plan- 2 ning. Copies available by calling 017| 431 5222



ScotAm tries to kick habit

Nic Cicutti weighs up the pros and cons of Abbey National's offer

bbey National, the former building society turned financial services giant, yesterday stunned the City with a takeover bid for Scottish Amicable, the Glasgow-based mutual life company.

More than a millioo ScotAm policyholders will have to decide between the rival merits of two completely different proposals for the future direction of the company

What is the background to the bid? We all know about building societies demutualising.

In the past five years, too, a number of insurance companies have merged, including Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance. Norwich Union also plans to float.

Competition and the need to rationalise have driven relatively inefficient firms together, while others are turning to the stock market to get funds to grow more quickly.

So where does this leave mutual insurers' policyholders?

They own the firms they are members of and have policies with, as long as the products they bought are with-profits policies, typically mort-gages or pensions. This is because they have an interest in the underlying with-profits fund, built up over maoy years, from which their boouses are paid. Therefore, when a mutual insurer is takeo over, they are the ones to benefit.

Where does Scottish Amicable come

The firm is one of the UK's largest mutually-owned insurers. It was founded in 1826 and has total funds under management of more than £14bn. It has about 1.4 million policyholders, of whom more than 1 millioo iovest in its with-profits fund.

If it is so successful, why all the fuse? The problem for ScotAm is that it is not as successful as its glossy brochures would like us to believe. In the past few years its performance has slipped in the league tables of life companies. The charts on this page. give an idea. Once upon a time ScotAm was in the top five or six life offices in terms of its payouts to policyholders; in the past year or so it true and made the public edition



Flashback: Captain Chaos appeared in ScotAm television advertising a few years ago

has fallen among the bottom per-

Why is this?

Put simply, the company is in a cleft stick. It is forced by rules strictly enforced by one of its regulators, the Department of Trade and Industry, to set aside enough funds in nonpeculative investments to meet policyholders' reasonable expectations. But at the same time, it cannot invest this in the equity markets, which could give it better returns. Other companies have a larger share of their funds in shares than ScotAm, enjoying better performance.

So what is ScotAm doing about

243 di 14. . I have maken a mishal with the work with

two weeks ago that it was planning a two-stage de-mutualisation and flotation process, lasting three to five

years. The deal is complicated, but involves an injection of £350m from an outside firm, Swiss Re, to bolster the with-profits fund, ensuring better returns for policyholders. A further £45m would be poured in by another firm, Securitas, linked to Swiss Re, to finance new business growth on ScotAm's part. This would fatten ScotAm for a flotation worth up to £1.5bo. In return for this cash, Securitas would own a slice of the profits from the new flow of business in the next few years.

What do policyholders get out of it? The company thought it had hit Well, they would get an immedi- £210,000 and few of us have policies

upon a clever wheeze. It announced ate £75m paid as bonuses into their policies if they vote in favour of the two-stage process, beginning with de-mutualisation in May. When the five years ago. company floats in a few years', they would receive a further chunk of money, £200m-£400m, once again

paid in boouses. ScotAm calculates that in cash terms, someone with a £30,000 sum assured policy maturing this year might get £1,500. This decreases the longer the policy is from maturity, because the bonus would be expected to earn extra interest. In five years, an extra amount might be

These figures are a bit suspect in that the £1,500 related to an actual maturity value in April of about

that large. So it pays to think in terms of boouses much smaller than that.

Still, it's better than a kick in the head. Why not vote for it straight away?

Because Abbey National has come in with a belter. It says it wants to pay at least £400m upfroot, worth more than five times the above amount per policyholder. The money would be paid in cash or Abbey shares. It would also pump up to £1bn into the with-profits food to boost its performance. But unlike the ScotAm deal, there is no more on the table in a few

So what happens next?
ScotAm's board says the Abbey offer is no good and it will still put its deal to the vote. This is by no means certain. It is possible that it may reconsider. Policyholders should wait until more details of ScotAm's and Abbey National's proposals before committing themselves. They should demaod that ScotAm explain in detail why it does not wish to accept Abbey's offer. It may be that ScotAm puts its proposals to a vote anyway. By occa week we should have a better picture but on the basis of current evidence, there may be other predators io the wings and it makes sense to vote against the ScotAm deal to see what else is oo the table.

One last question: who is that strange man with the banana bandoleer in the picture?

He is Captain Chaos, a Sixties character dredged up by ScotAm for its last televisioo campaign four or

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Planning for retirement can be a piece of cake

Planning for retirement can seem daunting, boring - or both. Boring, because it is traditionally seen as a subject for sad people who are already picturing themselves as old and grey decades before they actually become so.

Fear of the technicalities involved also plays a part. Yet, despite it all, we know that planning makes sense. We are moving towards a painful new world in which we will be forced to take more personal responsibility for our retirement.

Knowing and understaod-ing some of the language reduces the fear, while acting now ensures that you never need to worry about

your retirement again. The Independent has produced a free Guide to Pensions Planming, which explains in clear, straightforward language the best uptinos.

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The 52-page guide discusses the pros and cons of joining company pensions schemes and gives an indication of what you should be saving to ensure a decent income. It explains the simplest ways to top up a peosion and wheo it might make sense to start o personal pension. Finally, it discusses options for those

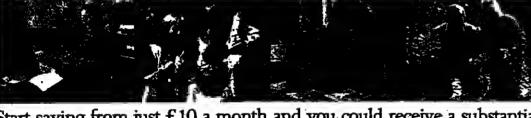
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Frills and spills

Collect to invest: John Windsor on whether to buy a Di

hinking of bidding for one of Princess Di's old dresses? You must be mad, or at least prone to hysteria - the communal disease that grips audiences at celebrity cast-off

Remember the Jackie Onassis sale at Sotheby's New York last spring? It fetched £22.8m, nearly eight times' estimate. So thoroughly did people, and money, get carried away that Sotheby's, in a shrewd public relations move, agreed to release from contract huyers who had bid silly prices, then woken up screaming the morning after. And prices were silly: Jackie's fake pearls, with a pre-sale estimate of \$500-\$700, went for a dizzy \$211,500.

Bidders may get steamed up as they compete against one another but auctioneers remain coldly calculating. They know the value of provenance that is, the added value that lies not in the object itself but in its vendor whether it is on Old Master that has been cared for by the same duke's family for seven generations or a pair of pink hallet slippers worn by Rudolf Nureyev: £12,075 at Christie's, London 1995. As the hammer fell, sobs were heard from an unsuccessful woman

The fact is, the big auctioneers have never - well, almost never - had a celeb cast-off sale that has flopped. The Onassis, Nureyev, Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Frank Sinatra, Joan Sutherland and Michael Caine sales have all been sprinkled with stardust. So the publicity hype goes on. But post-sale, in the cold light of day, the stardust loses its glitter. Speculators beware: you are unlikely to profit from celeb sales, at least in this lifetime.

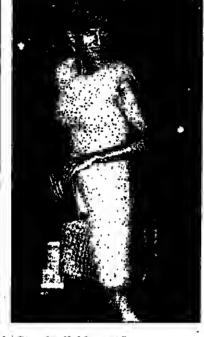
Only the Britt Ekland collection (Christie's South Kensington last December) - although it sold 92 per cent of its lots, raising £89,631, more than double the published pre-sale estimate - failed to achieve the lift-off into hysteria that is the auctioneer's dream. Typical of the bidding: a modest £632, just within £600-£800 estimate, for Ekland's Zandra Rhodes smock and trousers, a little short on glitter.

Well, how popular is Britt Ekland? How many remember her? That does matter to an auctioneer trying to warm up a saleroom full of hesitant first-time bidders. Come to that, how popular is a cast-off Royal among either Brits or the Americans who will be joining the









Fit for a queen: But are they likely to fit potential buyers?

£3m, £1m, or £10m, in exchange for 65

devotion by throwing money. Is ican rich really feel like a million dol-Princess Di's Celeb Quotient worth lars in her second-hand, out-of-date kit lars in her second-band, out-of-date kit at a charity ball - especially if the dress

Fortunately for Princess Di. auctioneers have ways of making you bid. Apart from cooping you up in condi-tions resembling a laboratory experiment on aggression in rats, they lace the bait with silly expectations in the form of ridiculously low pre-sale estimates, published in the auction cata-

logue.
Such as the estimate on those paste pearls in the Onassis sale; did the auctioneers really expect them to raise as little as \$500? Of course not.

But they understand the greed and aggression that such "come-on" estimates provoke. A handful of greedy bidders, having failed to carry off the lot for a song, will angrily turn on one another, hidding the price through the

Even smaller auctioneers are up to the silly estimates trick. In the sale of the late Peter Cushing's belongings at Phillips in July, the actor's famous Failsworth green herring-bone deerstalker hat, worn in the role of Sher-lock Holmes, was estimated at a pid-

dling £30-£50.

"We're not really sure how strong his following is," said a Phillips auctioneer, all innocence. On the night, Cushing fans flocked and the deerstalker fetched £1,380.

The fact is, without a realistic upper estimate to hint at restraint, silly hidders can go on bidding like hungry rats compulsively pushing a lever. Even Old Master prices are cranked up this way especially at country house sales, where gullible bargain hunters abound. A Van Dyck portrait with a copper-bot-tomed attribution but a silly estimate of £4,000-£6,000 fetched £133,500 at a Sotheby's country house sale in Suffolk in June - more than double its true

So when Christie's publishes its catalogue of Princess Di's dresses with estimates not much higher than their price new -£8,000-£12,000 - you will know what you are expected to do. Think twice before you do it.

If you must collect Royal costumes of a more intimate nature, wby not go for a nice pair of Queen Victoria's knickers? She used to give them to her ladies of the bedchamber as perks (Victorian celeb value).

With their authentic VR monogram and crown, they crop up from time to time at auction, fetching £600 or so. Having met the six people who collect

What's up for auction

New at Bonhams: a complete run of Nova, the style magazine for "a new kind of woman", published 1965-75. The estimate is £500-£800. Nova wrote about the kind of thing you find these days only in Cosmopolitan: Polrtics, too.

From the front cover of one, showing a young woman in a trouser suit I have taken the pill, I have hoisted my skirts to my thighs, dropped them to my ankles, rebelled at university, ahused the American Embassy, lived with two men, married one, carned my keep, kept my identity and, frankly... I'm lost."

More such Sixties retro in the same sale of design next Saturday (2pm) including a part set of cuttery by one of Britain's leading silversmiths, Pro-fessor Gerald Benney.

The sale is strong on unusual furniture. Most risible piece - the Cana dian architect Frank Gehry's corrugated cardboard armchair and ottoman Little Beaver for Vitra Editions, 1986, an example of Gehry's foray into eheap, democratic furniture. He was shocked to find that his admirers found such products chic, driving up their price as collectables. So he stopped making them, driving the price even higher. This lot is estimated £5,000-£6,000.

A first for Sotheby's a selling exhibition of contemporary decorative arts, from Thursday for a week (see Sotheby's Collector, p21). No bidding: price tags instead. The up-and-coming names in the exhibition have been chosen by Janice Blackburn, a private collector who used to work for the Saatchi Collection.

Victorian Valentine cards are at Christie's South Kensington, Thursday (2pm). Estimates from £60 to £300.

John Windsor



fear of finance

f Scottish Amicable policyholders succumb to the blandishments of Abbey National, which yesterday announced it is prepared to pay up to £1.4bn for the company, their decision will be down to two factors.

Let me declare an interest at the outset. I am one of the million-strong army of policyholders who will be considering my vote. As I see it, the first point to consider is ScotAm's performance. The plain fact is that over the past five years, the company's policyholders have been short-changed.

The tables we show in our Onestion and Answer piece on the Amicable tell the story. In that space of time, performance has slipped dramatically. The second factor is greed on the part of ScotAm's bosses. Having managed our funds in a shambolie way, the directors are in effect offering us bonuses of a few hundred pounds each, on average.

For that, we must hand over 20 per cent of future profits and lose any effective control of the company we supposedly own until it is floated in three to five years.

Yet far from apologising to us for their mismanagement of our funds, our "employees" (for that is what they are) have lined up share incentive packages that will give them up to £14.4m in shares if returns hit the targets they have set.

The justification for this to ScotAm bosses is that it is all part of creating the new "commercial culture" needed to drag a sleepy office, founded in 1826, into the 21st century.

In other words, the same directors who have been with the company for years - in some cases, decades - want loadsadosh for pulling us out of the mire they put us into. Despite the anger felt by

policyholders, it would be wrong to fall into the arms of Abbey National until we know what they are proposing. Details of the Abbey National offer, what little there

are so far, are set-out more

More information will beknown in the next few days. Next week, Scottish Amicabio is hoping to mail out its own proposals to policyholders fleshing out its announcement. two weeks ago.

Until the position becomes clearer, however, du not vote for ScotAm's proposals either. Meanwhile, it strikes me, as it will no doubts have struck

many thousands of other policyholders, that despite their new-found modernising zeal there is very little Scottish. learn in at least one area - hours to put their snouts in the

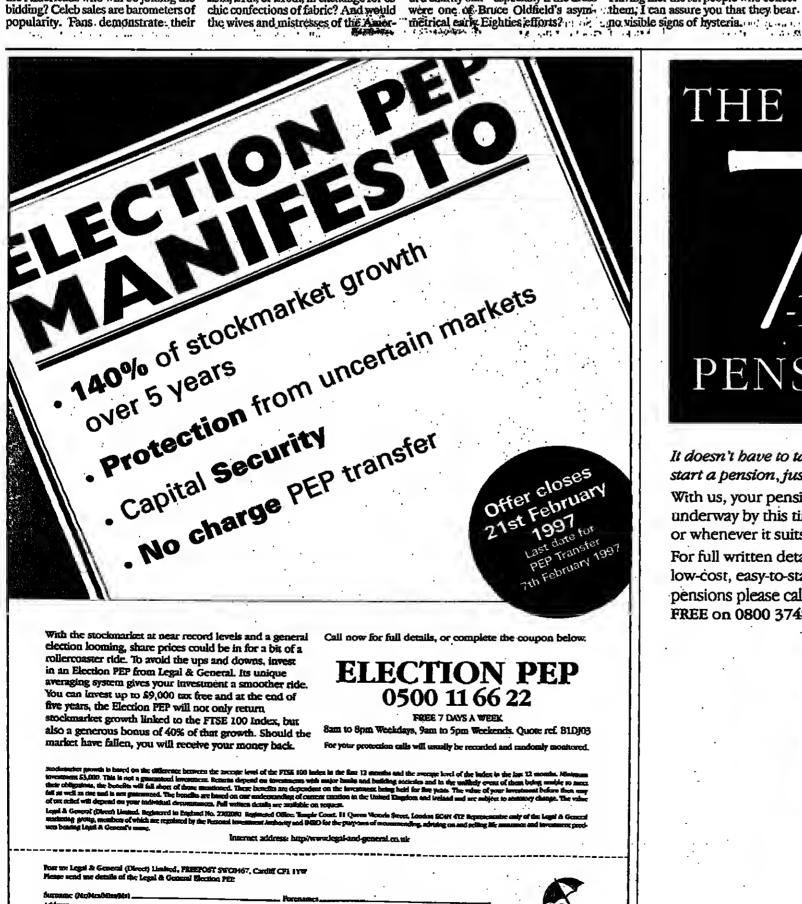
From one mutual company to an ex-mutual. Elsewhere on an ex-mutual Elsewhere on these pages, we detail the experience of a would-be rower with Cheltenham Gloucester, the mortgage and allegedly able to offer lower these because of the high numbers because of the high numbers. rates because of the high num ber of people whose £495 arrangement fees are lost when they fail to complete on a purchase. There is an irony here, in that when C&G was bought by Lloyds, it promised to undercut other lenders' mortgages by at least 0.25 per cent. Earlier this week, it abandoned the pledge, raising loans to a mere 0.03 per cent shy of its main competitors. Those who are about to vote for their own societies to float on the

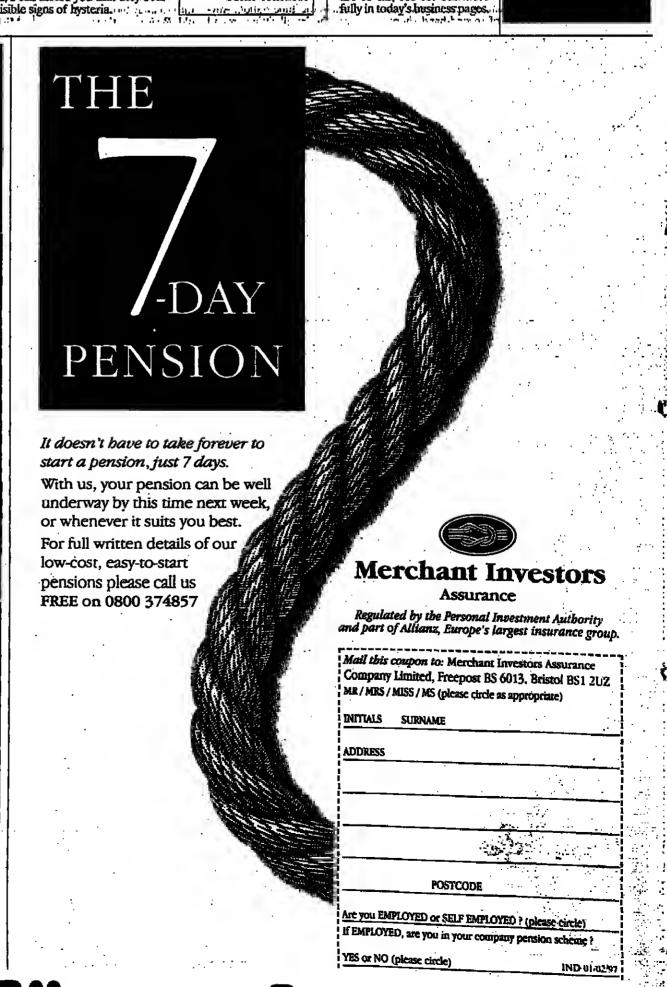
stock market might want to

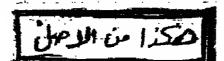
bear this in mind.

Nic Cicutti

PENSIONS







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THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND . SATURDAY I FEBRUARY 1997

inside back

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY

Whatever happened to...

Michael Brown

Always ...

Fame for 15 minutes?

The Year: 1968. London. Warhol's words of wisdom are born out everywhere. From big boobs in The Sun to "A Walk in the Black Forest" in the charts, anyone can make it. Heard of it? Exactly. A small amount of talent, rather larger in The Sun, stretches just far enough to fill those 15 minutes.

The Seventies contribute the Bay City Rollers, a strange Scottish phenomenon exciting many with their tartan gear. And the pinnacle is reached with Bros in 1988. Their single "Wheo Will I Be Famous"

(hopefully for as short a time as possible) is about nothing but fame itself. Music trails a long second. They carn £12m, then disappear into debt and obscurity very soon afterwards in the perfect Warhol scenario.

But George Michael is still hanging around after the Eighties Andrew Ridgeley had the requisite amount of talent - none - and basically contributed that amount to Wham! but it's suddenly decided that Michael is a good soogwriter. And there are others: Sting, Prince, U2. Pop

stars start getting old. Live Aid in 1985 is considered the culprit. Despite raising money for the starving in the Third World it has the unexpected and unfortunate side-effect of making pop musicians responsible members of the establishment. Sting, for example, starts singing about irrelevancies such as the

Worse is to follow. After the Eighties all we want is a quality product. So it's the demise of the page three girl, at the same time as the rise of the

environment.

supermodel. Women who don't lose their looks at sixteen replace those who do. So it's farewell girls and thanks for the mammaries.

But The Tory Party revives a great Sixties tradition of a good scandal. Giving members of the public a chance to become famous (infamous) for a short period. In 1992 David Mellor tells of his support for Chelsea then reveals his affair with the actress Antonia de Sancha. One may safely assume this to be in the Victorian sense of "actress".

Mellor plays away from home in style. And at last, the world sees. Mellor can pull a decent bird. But it also means be loses his Cabinct post. He leaps on De Sancha rather as the Cheisea players do on each other when they score a goal. And the press leap on a

Yet It's not the same as before. De Sancha extends her time in the spotlight with the help of the publicist, Max Clifford. She's able 10 build a career that unfortunately makes her

good story.

petrator, and lots of money.

Now Yesterday's Sun was acclaiming Melinda Messenger, a woman who has shot to fame after modelling in douhle-glazing catalogues. And Chris Evans pushed the selfdestruct hutton earlier this month. So maybe there's hope for short-lived fame yet. But equally this week gives us Hello!, full of pictures of Queen Margrethe of Denmark. And every week, of Diana. Who'll be around for ever. Royalty, or nearly royalty,

as in the case of Tara Palmer-

Tomkinson is required. Warhol's great egalitarian dream of fame for all is gone. Along with the 15 minutes. Even the National Lottery version of money by completely fortuitous means, giving a chance of fame for anyone your life arranged by the chance of numbers instead of birth; balls holding the prize numbers instead of your gene codes - no tonger interests us. But at least something of

Warhol remains. As with Diana or Palmer-Tomkinson, there's nothing beyood the media image but a complete vacuum.

e're playing pinochle. I am winning by about a million points, but tragically I'm the one who vetoed playing for cash, and it'll be a bit obvious if I change my mind now, so I have to settle for the simple pleasure of humiliating my companions. The coffee table is crowded with the usual mass of empty wine bottles, full ashtrays, lumps

of driftwood and bank statements on which Dan. who is 19, has doodled so many marijuana leaves that the figures have been obliterated. Dan has gone out, looking insulted when asked conversationally where be was going. Dan and Charlie exist, I think, to remind me that, in some people's eyes at least, I am now a member of the older genera-

e are tion. I wish they'd tell that to the 70-year-olds. Charlie is lying on the sofa in the kitchen watching a Steven Segal film on cable. While we slap cards down on the table-top, between cackles on the two and cusses, we're talking about serendipity. It's been on my mind ever since I dropped the money. It was one of those

ity...

occasions in

absolute

desperation

have found a

£50 note on

a busy street

things where you think you're my life when being crafty and actually you're being amazingly stupid. I was going to Tooting. So naturally I assumed I was going to be assumed I was going to be mugged. The moment Londoners step outside areas they are familiar with, they prepare to enter bandit country. Never mind that your best chance of being robbed is to walk down Oxford Street: the mean streets of Surbiton are full of threats if you look for them.

In anticipation, I had transferred some cash into one of those silk purses with poppers which the Chinese wrap cheap jewellery in. This had the advantage of separating it from my credit cards, but it weighed Thing at all. Tooting was fine; t much street lighting and a of second-hand shops. At four in the morning, however, as I rolled from the back of a £40 drove off into the night.

The thing is, though, after an initial five minutes of kicking Charlie goes "Wrong number,"

cupboard doors, I don't really mind. Someone poorer than me. if there is such a thing, will probably have found it. This is where the serendipity comes in. On the two occasions in my life when I have reached absolute

sticks down by the end

desperation; rent due, contracts reneged on, no food, no fags, I have found a £50 note in a busy street. What you do when you're miserable, of course, is look down, which increases your chances of finding what's on the pavement, but I have never, apart from these two incidents, even seen a £50 note. They are things you buy second-hand cars with, not things that drop out of your wallet.

I finish telling this story, and Laura says "Ooh, that reminds me. Did I tell you about what happened to Dan and Charlie the other day?" Dan and Charlie have a hit of a reputation for spooky happenings. "No," we say. "Well" says Laura, and I don't notice that she's continuing to play while she talks, "Charlie went out a couple of nights ago. Went up to see some friend in Notting Hill. Of course, he hadn't said he was coming, so his friend was going out. They ended up in this house in Shepherd's Bush. Charlie had never been there before. Didn't know these people from Adam. Wouldn't have been able to find his way back to the Tube station, Anyway, they're all sitting around like they do, and the phone goes. For some reason, Charlie picks minicab, the stupid sow's ear it up". "Mmm?". "Well, you "Amazingly enough, no. I keep dropped from my pocker, and won't believe this, but this voice expecting to hear a loud..." goes "Hello, can I have an

and the voice goes "Charlie?" and Charlie goes "Dan?". Dan had dialled a wrong number trying to order a pizza from ham Junction

Whoo," I say. "Freaky." Laura pours herself another glass of wine. "By the way," she says. "You need to pick up two cards for missing your go." "It's John's turn."
"No it isn't. I put down a Jack." "Oh you sod." I start losing and end up several hundred match-

> of the evening. The next night, I go to the home of my Scottish godchild, strapping on my knuckie-dusters to

negotiate the obvious dangers of Tufnell Park. The house is in the grip of a bout of projectile vomiting, I time my ourney to arrive just after bathtime. Since I last saw him, Hector has graduated from his cot. I get one of those life-is-passingme-by flashes; it seems no time at all since people were exhorting me not to stick my fingers through the holes in his skull. He explains the entire plot of a dinosaur book and I retreat to the safety of the kitchen before he can tell it again.

Inevitably, we get back onto serendipity. I explain the rules of pinochle, then tell the story of Charlie and Dan and the pizza. We're calculating the odds of dialling a specific wrong number in a city of 10 million-odd people, combined with the odds of a run of luck at cards ending at a given point, when Hector comes into my mind. "When did Hector get a bed?" "Months ago," says Jo. "Don't you notice anything?" Jo and I shared the same bathroom facilities for three years, so she feels entitled to be familiar.

"I noticed you'd finally thrown away those three-yearold Review sections in your downstairs bog. How's he getting on? Has he fallen out yet?"

Thump. Hector plunges to American Hot delivered?" And the floor above us just as the word crosses ber lips.

Truly, madly, derivative

ohn Stuart Mill said, "All good things which exist are the fruits of originality," and he wasn't the first to think so. It's a rather weaselly line of argument: show him something you consider good but derivative, and Mill would always be abte to find some trace of originality in it that would answer his requirements. But Truly, Madly, Bletchley (Radio 4, Wed) still strikes me as a solid counter-example, being a comedy show that is quite good but almost completely unoriginal.

Not that there is any one element you could point to and shout "Rip off!" (though I'd certainly heard the gag involving a man announcing that he is an alcoholic because he's got his meetings mixed up). It's more a sense, not easy to pin down, that these are not new iokes so much as old jokes converted - tasteful conversions. mind you, with many of the original features preserved.

In particular, it all sounds terribly like an old episode of The Burkiss Way, a brilliantly surreal, straight-faced Radio 4 comedy series of the late Seventies, written by David Renwick and Andrew Marshall. The Burkiss



Robert Hanks the week on radi

Way seems to have been consigned to oblivion while an entire nostalgia industry has been constructed around the generation of comedians that created Python, The Goons and I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again. Perhaps the reason is that none of the performers (Nigel Rees, Chris Emmett, Fred Harris and Jo Kendall) was an obvious comic personality; they were just good at performing other people's scripts - something that also goes for Truly, Madly, Bletchley, although Julian Dutton, who wrote the whole thing,

man of Bletchley District Council's Ways and Means Committee (the show's conceit is that it is a cabaret performed by local government officials). At any rate, Dutton's rhetoric

"Let's unbutton our blouses, release our two giant twin orbs of laughter" - is hugely reminiscent of the Burkiss style; and so are the sharp intercuts between sketches, and the attention paid not simply to sound effects, but to fundamental acoustic quality. The sketches are very uneven, many of them starting well but tailing off very badly - Mr Batley's involuntary metamorphosis into Enrico Valdez, the Chilean Charmer, was a nice piece of cod-Hammer horror, but the Latin American love-song that followed was simply boring.

A nice idea about a man consulting a doctor (an old Burkiss format) because he lapses into a coma for eight hours every night was extended into a poorly thought-out series of gags about meaningless eases. So what makes the show likeable is not what's original to Dutton's writing; it's the reminder of forgotten

And originality doesn't always get you very far, either. Fictuality (Radio 3, Mon-Fri) was an original idea, from producer Paul Dodgson: writers were commissioned to produce short stories based around news events, and the readings were intereut with archive recordings of the news. I caught two of the stories: Julie Myerson's Heckend Break, about a couple's relationship deteriorating over a weekend in Jerusalem when an Israeli soldier has just been kidnapped by Palestinians, and Mark Lawson's Death Comes for the Pope, about the conspir-acy theories that exercise bows at an international school in Rome in the days following the death of John Paul I.

As far as Lawson's story was concerned, the news bulletins were just ineffectual punctuation; Myerson used them more effectively, pruviding fuel for her characters' dialogue. But even here, the novelty of the format didn't add much to the stories, and you didn't feel that fact and fiction were being woven together in any hut the most superficial sense. Give me a decent plagiarist any time.

Undead series roam the schedules

his week Last Chance Lottery (C4, Sat) celebrated the joys of losing, and the biggest loser of all was Channel 4 itself. Unless you count Princess Margaret, victim on Secret Lives (C4, Wed) of the most brutal mugging ever administered to a royal personage. So farewell then, Michael Grade. Like Margaret, you had a phallic smoking habit, the Mail got the wrong end of the stick and dubbed you pornographer-in-chief. Hello, procrastinatorin-chief Alan Yentob, who will be eyeing up the vacancy. For BBC news he delivered a respectful obituary on Grade's

reign while trying not to look

like the cat who got the cream. Filling Grade's shoes may cure Yentob once and for all his. famous indecisiveness, which he certainly won't be needing at a channel entirely reliant on outside talent. No one can really decide what Yentob's current job actually is but it's something to do with paperclipping television and radio production together under one umbrella (or umbrellorate, as it's known at Birt's brave new Beeh). He'd be far better employed at Channel 4, doing useful things like axing Last Chance Lottery (or consigning it to the dustbinate). The show's studio audience

are united by two things: they



didn't pick this week's winning numbers, and they've been warmed up to within a single fahrenheit of melting point. Every time their pixyish host Patrick Kielty completes a sentence, up goes another cheer. (Cheer!) In the first programme there were 163 completely unwarranted eruptions of noise. (Cheer!) The floor manager, whose joh is to prompt the andience, must have picked up an industrial

In a nod to its roots, the show incorporated a rehash of Crackerjack, which depended on the near religious responses of its discipular audience. This is the way television is going, treating its past as a bottomless pit of cheap ideas. Tomorrow's light entertainment will be the higgest loser, when

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injury. (Cheer!)

there'll be nothing to be nostalgic about except nostalgia itself. Bizarrely, the programme feels like nothing so much as a homage to Chris Evans, who used to host a rabhle-rousing show live on Channel 4 in which, like Kielty, he vision and, instead of being laid to rest, undead programmes are condemned to of it wasn't brilliant. And perread the schedules. Look at Channel 4's other

innovations this week. There is nothing in Fortean TV (C4, Wed) that wouldn't go away if you waved a crucifix at it. Handily, it's fronted by a clergyman. Where freak-show presenters Carol Voderman and Michael Aspel have already trodden, there follows the Reverend Lionel Fanthorpe (singing us out over the credits). There was something fishily repetitive about the first three reports on fish-tailed mermaids, on fish falling from the sky, and fish in Turkey who cure psoriasis. Next week they'll run a report on the unexplained evaporation of Fortean TV's editor.

And what about Per Rescue (C4, every weekday), a raid on Anthea Turner's Per Power (TTV, Wed) presented by her earthier sister Wendy? Even Brass Eye (C4, Wed) couldn't ambush the viewer with unalloyed inven-

tion. Many of Chris Morris's daredevil skills were honed on the scarcely dissimilar The Day Today, and his script associate Peter Baynham has been doing comparable stuntwork on Armando Iannucci's two Armistice series. And special got to sing us out over the thanks to Graham Linchan and credits. Perhaps everything Arthur Mathewsfor all that surreally has been done on tele- real gaggery previously workshopped on Father Ted. This is not to say that much

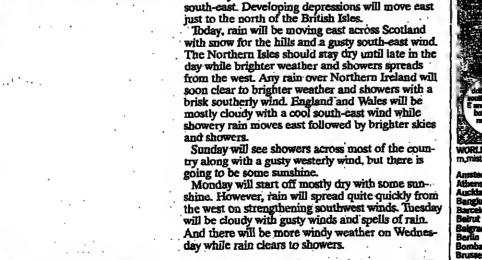
> tinent: the item about an elephant who had anally ingested her own trunk brought to mind the hideous deformity of Ruby Wax's encounter with Tom Hanks (BBC1, Mon). But it's debatable whether half the fun of a satire should come with working out whether the guest celebrities are in on the joke or not (as Hanks so transparently was). Some of them plainly weren't; on the phone Baywatch's Alexandra Paul advised Morris to put out a press release over AP. "Over a pea?" he replied, dumbstruck. But other celebs have cannily made a second career out of sending themselves up. Step forward, Messrs Parsons and Daniels, and Ms Ekland, who all knew what was required. On Last Chance Lotters there was a running joke about Ed Stewart's fee. But Stewart, pocketing the cheque, laughed longer than anyone else.

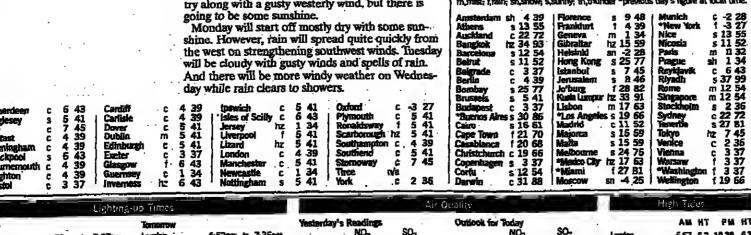






An anticyclone centred near Denmark will drift





MO2 Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate NO₂... Moderat Moderat Good Moderat SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good 4:50pm to 7:37am 6.57 6.2 19.39 6.3 5:02pm to 7:45am 5:00pm to 7:47am 429 7.7 16.58 7.8 S England Wales C England N England Scotland .4:56pm to 7:46am 4:54pm to 7:48am - 12.18 10.7 4:54pm to 7:51am 4:52pm to 7:524m 11.35 63 17.42 29 4:44pm to 7:55am 4:46pm to 7:54am 557 29 1805 30 8:07am



Comes Hale-Bopp, one of the ightest comets seen for decades, will adom the evening sky in the second half of March and early April. It is already bright enough to be spotted with the naked eye, though for this month in the early morning sky before dawn. During February, look forwards the eastern horizon at least an hour and a half before sumise. The darker the sky, the better the view Discovered by Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp on 22 July 1995, this comet will appear bright in

the sky because it is exceptionally large, not because it is making a particularly close approach. The nemest it gets to us is 123 million miles · more distant than the Sun so there is no danger of a collision. But at about 25 miles across this sizzling cosmic snowball is more than twice the size of Halley's

A vast amount of information on Comet Hale-Bopp is available on the World Wide Web. Try http:// New Products, pl. nasa, gov/ comet/ as a starting point.

The Big Picture Citizen Kane

1.40pm Sat BBC2

The 26-year-old Orson Welles's 1941 directorial debut sits at the top of so many greatest-movies-of-alltime lists that it is easy to forget what good fun it is - light, fast, scabrous and breathtakingly inventive. It is also one of those films that could not have been made by anyone else. Welles (above) is Charles Foster Kane (while Kane, as everybody knows, was William Randolph Hearst), whose rise and fall mirrored Welles's subsequent career in movieland.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert



TX: The Lost Films of Orson Welles Sat 7.40pm BBC2 An Audience with... Bruce Forsyth Sat 9pm ITV Nostromo Sat 9.30pm BBC2 Hill Street Blues Sat 11.35pm C4 Howard Goodall's Organ Works Sun 7.30pm C4 Bragg on America Sun 10.45pm ITV

people know about Joseph Conrad's Nostromo is of his life plotting to bring it to the screen. Conrad's 1904 novel also fascinated the screenwriter Robert Bolt during the 1960s, but it has taken a combination of British, American, Italian and Spanish money to finally nail the beast. Moreover, given its multi-national fund-ing and casting (from Colin Firth and Brian Denneby to Claudia Cardinale), and the hugely ambitious nature of the book (the intellectual and political forces which distort individuals and nations), Nostromo (Sat BBC2) is remarkably coherent.

Visually, it's a treat. David Lean would probably have lost his characters in the Andean landscape, but director Alastair Reid keeps the right balance between man and nature - and there's a suitably lush score by Ennio Morricone. Colin Firth, looking muted and sexless minus a smouldering storyline and his Mr Darcy breeches, plays Gould, the idealistic (so you know what's going to happen to him) owner of a dilapidated

'm hazarding a guess here, but I imagine that silver mine in a fictional South American country. His doodling, the by-products of frustrated talent.

the one thing that most media-savvy, post-literate father, the mine's previous owner, was killed by his The first series of Hill Street Blues (Sat C4). Steven the one thing that most media-savvy, post-literate father, the mine's previous owner, was killed by his workers during a nationalist revolution, and Firth that the film director David Lean spent the latter stages is determined to make a success of it, despite the misgivings of Dr Monvgham, a broken and sozzled colleague of his papa, played by Albert Finney.

Orsoo Welles, as far as we know, never wanted to make a movie out of Nastromo. He did, however, want to film Moby Dick, Don Quixote and The Merchant of Venice, according to the TX documentary. The Lost Films of Orson Welles (Sat BBC2). Welles did, in fact, complete shooting Shakespeare's Venetian tale, but the negatives mysteriously disappeared before they could be edited. Judging by what remains, his Shylock is a great loss to the canon of filmed Shakespeare. The Other Side of the Wind, his 1976 film starring John Huston and Peter Bogdanovich (and with enough rapid editing as to make NYPD Blue seem like a still life) is completed but remains blocked by legal wrangles. A lot of the other stuff-taken out of storage for the first time since his death by Welles's long-term companion, Ojs Kodar, is the cinematic equivalent of

Bochco's innovative and fondly remembered 1980s ensemble police series, begins a rerun and looks as raw as you would expect. This was the beginning of a long experimentation with the genre which has now evolved into NYPD Blue and Murder One.

I was rather struck by the similarities between An Andience with... Bruce Forsyth (Sat ITV) (reminiscences and anecdotes with Tarby, Kenny Lynch and oo) and Bragg on America (Sun ITV), with its reminiscences and anecdotes from Jackie Collins. Tina Brown and David Hockney. In fact, they should have called this week's episode Hollywood Mehyn.

Howard Goodall's Organ Works (Sun C4) takes its tone from the schoolboy pun in its title. Goodall is a irrepressibly chirpy composer - he wrote the theme tunes for Blackadder and Mr Bean - and presenter, who lends an unlikely but largely successful populist touch to the story of organs and organ music, bouncing around from the Tyrol to Spain to an east London organ makers. The lad's gone and will go far.



The Big Match

Rugby: England v Scotland 2.25pm Sat BBC1

England's rugby union team gets to answer critics of their coach (Jack Rowell) and his alleged "mumbo-jumbo" factics when they open their Five Nations account against Scotland in today's Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham Captain Phil De Glanville's defence included a plea to the Twickers cross to be tolerant of their ambition to lock points, but we could be targiven for pointing to Wales's try-scoring conquest of the Scots. English tries, though, are likely to come from Jason Leonard (above) and the pack.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

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7.05 The Pink Parither Show (R) (2253284).

7.25 News, Weather (6957212).
7.30 Children's 8BC: Iznogoud, 7.40 Phantom 2040.
B.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. B.30 The New Adventures of Superman (3443888). 9.15 Live and Kicking. Order, order. Guests are Michelle Gayle and Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons (S) (71841468).

12.12 Weather (6729975). 12.15 Grandstand. Introduced by Steve Rider from Twickenham. 12.20 Football Focus (6171807). 1.00 News (1.4684517). 1.00 Racing from Chepstow: the 1.15 BBC Ceefax and Marcia-Ann Cooper Handicap Chase (15332352). 1.25 Skiing-action from the World Cup women's downhill from Laax in Switzerland (92669333). 1,40 Racing from Chepstow: the 1.45 Prestige Novices's Hurdle (98626791). 1.55 Rugby Union. 2.10 Racing from Chepstow: the 2.15 John Hughes Grand National Trial (63865064). 2.25 Rugby Union. England v Scotland, Live coverage of the Calcutta Cup match from Twickenham. Kick-off at 3pm. See The big match, above (64379265). 4.40 Final Score (2345449). 5.00 Rugby Union: Wales v Ireland. Extensive highlights (5284). 5.30 News, Weather (7) (382246).

5.40 Regional News and Weather (597517). 5.45 The Simpsons (S) (T) (860449).

6.10 Due South (S) (870623). 6.55 Noel's House Party. The Bee Gees are the victims of this week's Gotcha (S) (655401).
7.50 The National Lottery Live (S) (1) (308265).

8.05 Casualty. Josh, who last week lost his entire family in a gas explosion, seeks solace from Baz (S) (T) (798536).

(798536).

8.55 News and Sport, Weather (7) (264642).

9.15 IN Midnight's Child (Colin Bucksey 1992 US).

Made-for TV tosh starring Olivia D'Abo as a

Swedish au pair from hell – literally so, as she picks
out an LA couple's young daughter to be bride for
the Devil. Yes, well... (7) (449994).

10.45 Match of the Day. Derby County v Liverpool is the main event – plus, all the rest of the day's Premiership goals (S) (T) (4814062).

11.55 The Frank Skinner Show (R) (S) (T) (644008).

12.25 Top of the Pops (S) (7) (1921043). 12.55 TIM Shag (Zelda Barron 1989 UK/US). The title translates a little unfortunately into British English (Palace, who produced it, should have known better), but to Americans of a certain generation allegedly, the shag was a dance craze. Set in 1963. Phoebe Cates is the lass who, on the eve of her wedding, heads off for one last spree on the beach with girlfriends Bridget Fonda, Page Hannah and Annabeth Gish. A strong young cast (T) (598734). 2.30 Weather (8233753). To 2.35am.

REGIONS: Nr. 2.25 Rugby Union: Wales v Ireland. Wales: 2.25pm Rugby Union Wales v Ireland. 11.55 Snooker, 12,40am The Frank Skinner Show, 1.10

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Voyages of Discovery (6039913), 6.45 The Planet Earth: A Scientific Model (5008517). 7.10 Seville: Gateway to the Indies (3228130). 7.35 Playing Safe (1080401). B.00 Open Saturday (884401). 10.30 The Sky at Night (R) (S) (T) (4721807). 10.50 (India Never Give a Sucker an Even Break (Edward

Cline 1941 US). Top drawer WC Fields - an essentially plotless joy-fest in which the misanthropic one parodies the various stages of film-making as his screenwriter character, Otis Criblecoblis puts together a feature for Esoteric

5tudios. Co-stars Groucho Marx's great "straight-worman", Margaret Durnont (7632468).

12.00 Film 97 with Barry Norman (S) (T) (11555).

12.30 Film Journey into Fear (Orson Welles 1942 US).

Oark, labyrinthine and often pretentious adaptation. (by Welles and its nominal star, Joseph Cotten) of Eric Ambler's spy story about munitions smugglers in Second World War Turkey. Welles himself plays the Turkish police chief in this, the first in a triple bill of his films (826.1159).

1.40 Tital Citizen Kane (Orson Welles 1941 US). See The big picture, above (T) (78557807).

3.35 GRANThe Magnificent Ambersons (Orson Welles 1942 US). Welles's second film after Citizen Kane is in some respects deeper and more interesting – albeit lacking the verve of his dazzling calling card. Tim Holt plays the arrogant scion of the eponymous moneyed family in turn-of-the-century America, surrounded by stand-out performances from Dolores Costello as his mother, Agnes Moorehead as his hysterically bitter aunt and Joseph Cotten. RKO farmously savaged it in the editing stage and this is the only more-or-less complete version in existence (6564604).

5.00 TOTP 2 (S) (9065772). 5.45 World Bowls, Dougle Donnelly In Preston
Introduces coverage of the final (S) (732739).
6.30 Assignment Special. Investigates allegations that
Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

plundered millions (S) (827791),
7.15 News and Sport, Weather (1) (248159),
7.30 What the Papers Say, John Sweeney of the
Observer reviews the press (S) (397159).

7.40 TX: The Lost Films of Orson Welles. See preview, above (S) (T) (212081). 9.00 Till Death Us Do Part (R) (4159).

9.30 Nostromo. See preview, above (S) (1) (5594468). 10.45 TIMM The Fabulous Baker Boys (Steve Kloves 1989 U5). Lounge-bar pianists, Jeff and Beau Bridges, hire singer Michelle Pfeiffer to pep up their tired old act, and she changes their life in this terrific, smartly scripted romance (71143420).

12.20 Manda (Barbara Loden 1971 US). Shot on 16mm, this award-winning but drab piece of realism features its director as bedraggled divorces from a mining town who teams up with small-time crook Michael Higgins for a spot of on-road stick ups. A real curio (82774314). To 2.25am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert? 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.55 Masked Rider (1706159).

9.25 Scratchy and Co. Music comes from 911 and Skunk Anansie. Plus, gossip from last week's Bratt Awards (S) (77175389).

11.30 The Chart 5how (5) (37159). 12.30 Fresh. A profile of Talvin Singh, a young Anglo-Asian musician, DJ, record producer and club owner opens this new "contemporary arts-based

1.00 News, Weather (T) (14602913). 1.05 London Weekend Today (T) (14601284). 1.10 EUEJ Disaster on the Coastliner (Richard C Sarafian 1980 US). A vengeful railroad employee programmes a head-on collision for the computer

controlled Los Angeles-San Francisco train service. Can he be stopped? Mechanically cranked suspense with Lloyd Bridges (95936062). 3.00 Airwolf (R) (2914081). 3.50 seaQuest DSV. The submarine is visited by aliens. Sounds like a TV series in trouble (7) (4636997).

4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (7) (2339888). 5.05 London Weekend Tonight (7) (5613081). 5.20 Clueless (S) (7) (1874178). 5.50 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch. Rap star Coolio makes a guest appearance, as Sabrina's cat goes missing one Christmas Eve (S) (T) (845130).

6.15 Gladiators - the Ashes Series (S) (7) (690371). 7.15 Blind Date. Last week's winners report back from Canada and France (S)(1) (696555). 8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (T) (526062). 8.45 News, Weather, Lottery Result (1) (246246).

9.00 An Audience with Stuce Forsyth. See preview, above (S) (T) (1555).

10.00 (IIIMT lange and Cash (Andrei Konchalovsky 1989
US), Reluctantly teamed cops Sylvester Stallone
and Kurt Russell by to out-macho each other when they pair up to nail the drugs baron (Jack Palance)

who has framed them. Slick smash-bang-wallop direction and nimble dialogue make a surprising enjoyable ride out of this otherwise clichéd buddy-buddy action movie (S) (250159). 11.55 in Bed with Medinner, Chunky comedian Bob

Mills, whose new Channel 4 chat show starts tonight, continues his trawl through some of television's odder offerings (464064) 12.25 Erik the Viking (Terry Jones 1989 UK).

Jones's adaptation of his children's book is an inventive but not particularly funny or exciting Norse saga that probably won't please either Python fans or their children. Tim Robbins, John Cleese and Imogen Stubbs star (5) (396043).

2.05 Tropical Heat (S) (5109289). 2.55 El News Review (2574192). 3.45 Club Nation (R) (2925550). 4.40 ITV Sport Classics, Frank Bruno takes on Joe Bugner from the archives (45837260). 5.05 Coach (S) (3674111). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (68623).

7.00 Demb and Dumber (S) (26826).
7.30 Dennis (R) (2130517).
7.45 First Edition. With Jon Snow (R) (2128772).
8.00 Transworld Sport (23623).

9.00 Morning Line (S) (90710) 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (12307).
11.00 Super Bowl XXXII. Highlights of last Sunday's clash between the New England Patriots and the Green Bay Packers (S) (8523159).

12.10 Tim Herrman's Stiver Service. Profile of the fastrising British tennis star by lan Wooldridge of the Daily Mail (7) (7393623).

12.40 Channel 4 Racing. Jim McGrath presents the 12,45, 1,20, 1,50 and 2,25 races at Sandown

Park (S) (35450401).

2.45 The Summer Tree. A short film about an old man-recalling his younger years (7) (3935401). 2.55 EXEM Mr Deeds Goes to Town (Frank Capra 1936 US). Gary Cooper charms as Longfellow Deeds, the small-town, greeting-card poet from New England who comes to New York and conquers its cynical

big-city heart (along with that of Jean Arthur, the hackette sent to do a hatchet job on him).

Quintessential Capra, but it strains at just over two hours (T) (81583975). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (1) (8027246).

5.00 Brooksne United https://doi.org/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.100 now home to a rare breed of kestrel (S)(7) (9333). 9.00 Last Chance Lottery (S) (9197).

10.00 Eurotrash (R)(S) (31492). 10.30 The Show, A new chat show, hosted by Bob Mills, which incorporates not only the show itself, but all the shenanigans which surround it – agreeing on guests, getting them to do the show, getting other guests when guests drop out, getting guests to the studio, etc, etc. A real life Larry Sanders Show, in other words - in fact in the words of the

accompanying publicity meterial. Larry Sanders is hilanous. Will this be? (4828265).

11.35 Hill Street Blues. See preview, above (R) (S) (T) (540913).

12.35 TV Pizza. Surfs into "The Love Channel", religious programme "Nativity Cross" and drag queen nsation and former Warhol associate Holf Woodlawn (S) (8398260). 1.20 The Girlie Show (R) (S) (5538550).

1.50 Ricki Lake. Robbie, an actor, thinks his wife has it easy in her job as a hairdresser. So Ricki arranges for them to swap jobs (R) (S) (T) (5983956). 2.35 Beavis and Butt-Head (R) (S) (5700550).

3.05 Bless This House (R)(S) (62779821). 3.30 Film Night (R) (S) (29734).
 4.00 The White Room. With Sting, Teenage Fanclub, Geno Washington, the Equals, Babylon Zoo,

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.20 Movies, Gernes and Videos (35623), 1.10 Champidns of the Putrie (2492460), 1.40 Cartoon (11727265), 2.00 Airwol (729) 7102-2.55 spaClued (1506975), 3.50 Baywatch (4636997), 11.50 Pitre: The Calendar Exit Murders (638333), 1.40 Carnal Knowledge (6562298), 2.40 Fibre: in the Belly of the Whate (366444), 4.25 Sound Bites (95317260), 4.35 - 5.30 Punky Bunker (2023840),

CBITRAL
As Landon except: 12.30 Remiere (35623), 1.10
Champions of the Future (24924604), 1.40 Moves,
Games and Videos (20223266), 2.10 Films You Ruined My Life (157826), 5.10 Central March - Gook
Extra (7593352), 3.45 Jobfinder (790173), 5.20
5.30 Asian Eye (2067043).

5.30 Asian Eye (2067043).
CHANNEL 2 MORTH EAST
As London except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (35623). 1.10 Airwolf (85055\$5). 2:05 Carlbon (35422178). 2.10 Films Man. About the House (157826). 3.50 Baywotch (46369\$7). 5.10 Fall Time (7593352). 11.55 Movie Show Special-Die Hard with a Vengeance (334517). 12.20 Courch (7670376). 12.45 in Bed with Medinger (55050). 1.15 Films Topaz (82759192). 3.30 Furniy Busiless (6056956). 3.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (60645647). 4.25 Murder, She Wrote (2658666). 5.15 – 5.30 Sound Bites (5990685).

As North East except: 5.10 Scoreline (7593352).

HTV WRLES
As London except: 12,30 Movies, Games and Videos (35623). 1.10 hormen fristillen World Champerships 1996 (3505555). 2.05 World of Wonder (42025642). 2.35 Films Earth Star Voyager (769231 30). 11.50 Films The Calendor Girl Munders (638333). 1.40 Carpol Knowledge (6262208), 2.40 Films in the Belly of the Whale (366444), 4.25 Sound Biles (95317260). 4.35 - 5.30 Funly Burker (2023840).

As HTV Wales except: 1.10 Sportsweek (1689420). 1.45 World of Wonder (11726536). 2.05 Film: Earth Star Voyager (49987772). 4.15 The List (252975).

MERIDIAN As London except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (35623). 1.10 Stuntmasters (24924604). 1.40 Cartoon (98628159). 1.55 Airwolf (4240130). 2.55 seaQuest OSV (1206975). 3.50 Baywatch (4636597). 11.50 Film: The Catendar Girl Munders (638333). 1.40 Carnal Knowledge (5262208). 2.40 Film: In the Belly of the Whate (366444). 4.25 Sound Bites (95317260). 435 - 5.30 Funky Bunker (2023840).

As London except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (35623), 1.10 Film: Mad about Men (95945710). 2.55 Airwolf (1506975). 11.50 Film: The Calendar Girl Murders (638333). 1.40 Carnal Knowledge (6262208). 2.40 Film: In the Belly of the Whale (366444), 4.25 Sound Bites (9531 7260), 4.35 • 5.30 Funky Bunker (2023840).

SW. As London except: 10.00 Board Stupid (88178). 10.30 New Gamesmaster (15371). 12.10 Moviewatch (7393623). 12.40 Smycer and Roping (45597197). 2.30 Rygbi (93598807). 6.30 Smycer (37.700 Newyddon (238772). 7.15 Codfr To 113098841. 8.20 Tro Bresch Lyn Ebeneuer (829333). 8.50 Smycer (474604). 9.25 Last Chance Lottery (1840265), 10.30 The Show (70604), 11.30 Brass Eye (593265), 12.05 Fortean TV (1991802), 4.55 - 5.50 Beat Specials (7145289),

Radio

Radio 1 Greening 1.00 to Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Dave Pearce -

6.00am Mo Outta 8.05 Brian 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Don Everly at 60 6.00 The Moody Blues in Concert 7.00 My Fair Lady (R) 10.00 Ioin Anderson's Cettic Connections 97 t2.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3 (20 2 52 4MH; FAD 7.00 Record Review.
9.00 Building a Library, Julian Budden compares available recordings of Gluck's Orleo ed

10.15 Record Release. 12.00 Private Passions. Another

1.00 Threads 1.20 News; Vintage Years: the

3.20 The Finishing Touch. Tenor roles with students at the Bniten Pears School, assisted by vocal coach Diane Forlano. 4.05 The EBC Orchestras, Rachmaninov: Prince Rostislav, Stra

vinsky: Symphony in E flat. (R) 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. Including a new piece for the virginals; mu-sic of the occult; and new ideas

Ingue between the Royalists and the Puritans. Sung or Italian. 7.50 Interval William Weaver talks about Bellint's 1 Puntani. 8.15 I puntani, Act 2

political and social fall-out come under sustained scrutiny in a five-part series, Apocalypse Now and Then (10.05pm R3). Earlier, Apocalyose Now is remembered 16.50pm R4).

8.55 The Met Opera Quiz. A panel of three opera experts tackles questions sent in by listeners. 9.20 I puntani, Act 3. 10.05 Apocatypse Now and Then. Millions of fundamentalist Christrans, many of them in America

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believe that the biblical Book of Revelation refers to events in our own time. In the first of five proamines the theology behind the belief that we are living at the end of time. See Charce, above 10.30 Impressions. Bryn Morton looks at recent releases by pianist Myra Metford and drum-mer Bobby Previle, and at a and composer Chick Corea. 12.30 First Bass. The second of six programmes in which bassist

Ray Brown talks to Alvn Shinter

about his distinguished career.

1.00-7.00am Through the Night.
With Donald Macked. Radio 4

97 4-34 GERY FUL 198WE UV 5.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today 6.50 Prayer for the Day, With James Whitbourn and guest. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. With John Humphrys

and Sue MacGregor 8.58 Weather. 9.05 Sport on 4. With Cliff Morgan. 9.30 Breakaway. Holiday reports from around the world.

10.00 News, Loose Ends. Presented by Ned Shemin. 11.00 News; The Week in Westt1.30 Asiatile. In the second of

eight programmes, Julian Pet-uler explores Asian cursine and 12.00 Money Box. Alson Mitchell with the latest news from the world of personal finance. 12.25 Just a Minute. From: St Andrew's University. 12.55 Weather.

1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Oimbleby chairs a discussion of issues raised in Putney, London, with Sir Norman Fowler MP, Sir Alan Watters, Referendum Party; Simon Hughes MP, Liberal Democrat spokesman on health; and Glenda Jackson MP, shad-ow Transport Minister.

1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Any Answers? (0171) 580 4444. ing. By Rob Gittins. In 1900, Wales was the land of milk and honey for many impoverished trallans. Ninety years later, it's a

4.00 News; That's History. Gerry Northarn tests the reputation of ancient Greek civilisation as a model for modern society.

6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Close Ups. A new senes in which Nigel Andrews meets Hollywood's leading players. Here he talks to Robert Duvall.

Schubert's great song cycle Winterreise evokes a mental on Winterreise as the compos on witheretee as the compos-er's most revealing biography. 7.50 On These Days. 8.50 Seburday Night Theatre: Young PC. By Mark Davies Markham. Paula Young, a newly qualified police constable, is costed to ber home than in the 11.15 The Blue Room. (R) ay continues his comic recollec-tions of an awkward East Lothlan boyhood, (R)

12.30 News, 12.30

Radio 5

(833, 909let ww) 6.00am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Upfront 1.00 Sport on Five 6.05 Soc-0-Six 8.00 The Treatment News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM (100.0-101 9Mile FM) 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Classi Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am

Jeremy Clark 2.00 The Album Chart with Mark Forrest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-

11986tz LVD 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Quote... Unquote 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Peo-ple and Points 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Re view 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short Story 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newsday 5.30-6.00am Weekend

World Service

Satellite

7.00am Orson and Ofivia (59178). 7.30 George (61913). 8.00 Young Indiana Jones (52159). 9.00 Star Trek: Next Generation (45284). 10.00 Quantum Leap (67197). 11.00 Charatan Leap (47197). 11.00 Star Trek (47333), 12.00 Wrestling (74536), 1.00 Wrestling (83284). 2.00 Kung Fu - the Legent Continues (12159), 3.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (76420). 4.00 Star Trek: Voyager (95555). 5.00 The Hit Mix (2975). 6.00 Kung Fu - the ms (2973). 200 Rung H - The Legend Continues (63420). 7,00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys (13449). 8.00 Coppers (2352). 8.30 Cops I (8159). 9.00 Cops II (91739). 9.30 Cop Files (75265). 10.00 Law and Order (59820). 11.00 Red Shoe Diaries (96284). 11.30 The Movie Show (33642), 12,00 LAPD (45550). 12.30 The Lucy Show (81983). 1.00 Oream On (95227). 1.30 The Edge (97096), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (8540444).

7.00am Beverty Hills, 90210 (5029284). 8.00 Metrosa Place (5005604). 9.00 Pacific Orive (5025468), 10,00 Tales from the Crypt (50:69710), 10:30 Tales from the Crypt (50:45130), 11:00 Stand and Deliver (45:56517), 11:30 Stand and Deliver (93:83449), 12:00-5.00am Hit Mix (7881579).

SET MOVIES 6.00am Run Wild, Run Free (1969) (1969) (1965) 17. (1966) (1969) (1960) (1966) (1966) (1966) (1966) (1966) (1966) (1966) (1993) (1994) (1966) (1966) (1993) (1993) (79062), 2,00 Rough Diamonds (1994) (96772), 4,00 Charle's Ghost Story (1994) (7807). 6.00 Prince for a Day (1995) (16536). 8.00 II Could Happen To You (1994) (11081). 10.00 China Moon (1994) 182284). 11.45 Hollywood Dreams (1992) (382541). 1.15 Mindwarp (1991) (162005). 2.50 Black Fox: Good Men and Bad (1993) (6385531), 4,20-6,00em It Could Happen To You (1994) (306918).

5.00am Teacher's Pet (1958) (67642), 8.00 On the Riviera (1951) (27081). 10.00 Romantic Undertak Forever (1995) (17604), 2.00 The fl: the Legend of Curty's Gold (1994) (827979). 1.40 The Usual Suspects (1995) (806937), 3.25-6,00am Pentathion (1993) (38175840).

SKY MONTES GOLD 6.00pm The Last World (1960) (8795130), 8.00 The Driver (1978) (8707975). 10.00 The Deep (1977) (44589081), 12.10 Larmy Live and Unleashed (1989) (7003840), 1.50 El Greco (1966) (3577444), 3.25-5.20am

Call Me Madam (1953) (9397821). SMY SPORTS 1

6.30am Racing News (79468). 7.00 Golf: Heineken Vines Classic (585913). 10.00 The Rugby Club (83159). 11.00 Hold the Back Page (83159), 11.00 Hold the Back Page (96623), 12.00 Sports Saturday (73881 1781, 4.15 Sports Saturday Results (8447604), 5.30 Ice Hockey: NHL Power Week (17245), 6.30 Ice Hockey (768159), 9.30 Spanish Football (12555), 11.30 Ice Hockey (589178), 2.30-4.30am Spanish Football (76037) Football (76937). SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Soccer AM (6631710). 11.00 NHL Power Week (8655082). 12.00 Gott: Hetneken Vines Classic 12:00 Gots: Present Vines Classic. (5451 401). 2:00 Snooker: the Welsh Open (540 1739). 5:00 World Sports Special (4038517). 5:30 Beach Vol-leyball (6438130). 6:30 Snooker: the Welsh Open (9223569), 9.30 Rugby Union (6037197), 12.00 High 5 (9966647), 12.30-1.00sm Cricket

SXT SPORTS 3

12.00ncon UK Skiff Sailing 182535536). 12.30 High 5 (86725284) 1.00 World Motor Sport (11302265) 5.00 High 5 (66258710) 5.30 UK Skiff Sailing Vines Classic (28102062), 8.00 Golf USA: Pebble Beach Pro-Am (65811284). 11.30-12.00m2 World

9.00 Psychic Pets 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Agony 11.00 Psychic Pets 11.30 Fate and Fortune 12.00 Galf's Campus Capers

Supergrass and McAlmortt (R) (S) (5386192).

MUMMY, CAN I HAVE A PRETTY FACE LIKE **OTHER GIRLS?**

The words of an innocent girl. After all, it's not her fault that she contracted leprosy. Yet without help, Mali and thousands like her could be condemned to a lifetime of 'impresonment'.

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Yes I would like to help, please find enclosed my donation. Name (Mr/Mrs. TMss/Ms/Rev/Dr)_

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*(would like to give by Access/Mastercard/Visa - please charge the above amount to my account number. **Expiry Date** Signature

Please delete as appropriate A Registered Chanty Please return to The Leprosy Mission, FREEPOST, Goldhay Way, Peterborough PE2 58R.

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Top of the Pops. 1.40 Film: Shag.

:376:49 5階に FMI 7.00am Ciive Wamen 10.00 Kevin Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00 Ra-dio I Rap Show 12.00 The Radio Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix - Marshall Jefferson Sential Mix - Misissan Sundan 4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2

(\$9.90 TAN: FAD Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 Jeremy Clarkson's Laughing Gear 1.30 To the Manor Born

6.55am Weather: News Headlines

chance to hear Michael Berkeley's interview with Canadian writer, historian and journalist Michael Ignatieff (R)

Philharmonia, Humphrey Burton traces the histiry of the Philhar-

Anthony Rolle Johnson holds a masterclass on Mozari's operation

about Ockephem.

6.30 Live from the Met. I punjare A tale of the English Civil War composed by a Sicilian living in Pans. Bellini's last opera is sel Plymouth Castle and deals th passionate realousy and inChoice

Sixty million Americans believe that the end of the world is nigh - the theological reasons for this and the by Robert Duvail (left) in Close-Ups

2.30 Playhouse: Oreams of Leav very different story. With Aman-da Gordon and Suzanne Packer.

4.30 Science Now. 5.00 File on 4. 5.40 Footnotes. The last programme of the series. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

See Choice, above. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Franz journey of grief and loneliness Many great artists have travelled this journey since, notably Oiet-nch Fischer-Dieskau and Brigitte Fassbænder. On the bicentenary of Schubert's bath, they reflect

posted to her home town, to the

discomfort of her boyfriend and

. B

9.35 Classics with Kay, Brian Kay calebrates the 200th anniver-sary of Franz Schubert. 9.50 Ten to Ten, Cristina Odone alks to Jeremy Vine. 9.59 Weather.

10.00 News. 10.15 Wallis - the Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. As the Duchass of Windsor, Wallis Simpson was revited for causing a king to abdicate his throne. But what was she really like? (R)

5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast.

Hayes at Breakfast 9.00 Weekend 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 The Game's Up 12.00 Baker and Kelly 9.00 Dallyn UK 10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Asian Perspective 11.00

Michael Farstone Virgin Radio 11215, 1197-1260vib NW 105,800t PM 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ in Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00

Seventh Voyage of Shibad (1958) (27642). 4.00 Heart and Souls (1993) (5449). 6.00 Andre (1994) (14178). 8.00 Batman Forever (1995) (19623). 10.00 The User's Suspects (1995) (180826), 11.45 City Sildlers

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Hall of Fame (3509753).

(21646517). 6.00 Golf: Heineke (54281246). 11.00 UK Skiff Sailing Sports Special (97697739). 6.00am Agony 6.30 Fashion 7.00 Revelations 7.30 Fate and Fortune 8.00 Why Files? 8.30 Video Box

12.30 Why Files? 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Psychic Pets 2.00 Rishion 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Sport Live 5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Pop Show 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sports Live 7.00 Pin rashor 6.30 Sports Live 7.00 Pm Money 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Psychic Pets 8.30 Agony 9.00 Handy Hunks; Fashion 9.30 Looking for Love 9.45 Bottom Line 10.00 Topless Darks on Ice; Sport Live 10.30 Stand-Up Live 11.00 Topless Darks on Ice; Fate and Fortune 11.30 Sex Show 11.55 Exotica Erotica 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30-

4.55 The Beat Specials (R)(S) (5780227). To 6.05am.